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ABSOLUTELY DELICIOUS Contest winners David and Susan enjoy an exclusive culinary tour through Vancouver in the **2013 Ford Edge.**

INSIDER SECRETS

Winners David and Susan spend a pleasure-filled weekend driving a 2013 Ford Edge on an urban road trip to go behind the scenes of Vancouver's famous restaurant scene.

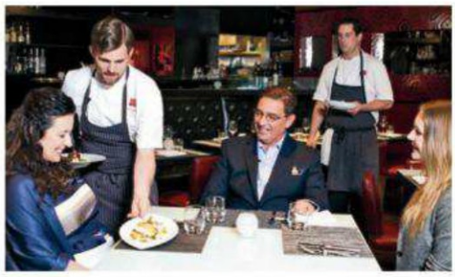
CAPTIVATING CUISINE

Internationally renowned for its culinary scene, Vancouver is a source of pride for Canadians across the country. The food and drink expert, Vancouver Magazine editor-in-chief Rebecca Philps, holds the key to Vancouver's best restaurants. With her knowledge and connections, Philps develops the perfect itinerary for contest winners David and Susan to experience a culinary journey that would tempt anyone's palette.

GOURMET TO GO

After an overnight stay at the elegant Level Furnished Living hotel, David and Susan begin their journey.

The day begins as David, Susan and Rebecca drive in style in the striking 2013 Ford Edge to Vancouver's famous The Dirty Apron. They meet owner and chef David Robertson. At the innovative specialty food store and school, the couple experiences a behind-the-scenes look at one of The Dirty Apron's energetic cooking lessons.



In a city of fabulous restaurants, it's hard to decide which one to go to. It comes as no surprise that Rebecca chose Ensemble, a top spot for contemporary French cuisine. As part of their insider experience, the trio are served personally by chef and winner of the inaugural season of Top Chef Canada, Dale Mackay.

Love sushi? So do David and Susan. A gourmet experience awaits them at Tojo's, an exclusive Japanese restaurant that serves Vancouver's hoi polloi. Rebecca has organized for chef Hidekazu Tojo to teach the couple how to make sushi. After a lot of laughter and experimentation making everything from maki to sushi handrolls, a thrilled David and Susan get to taste the spoils of their work.

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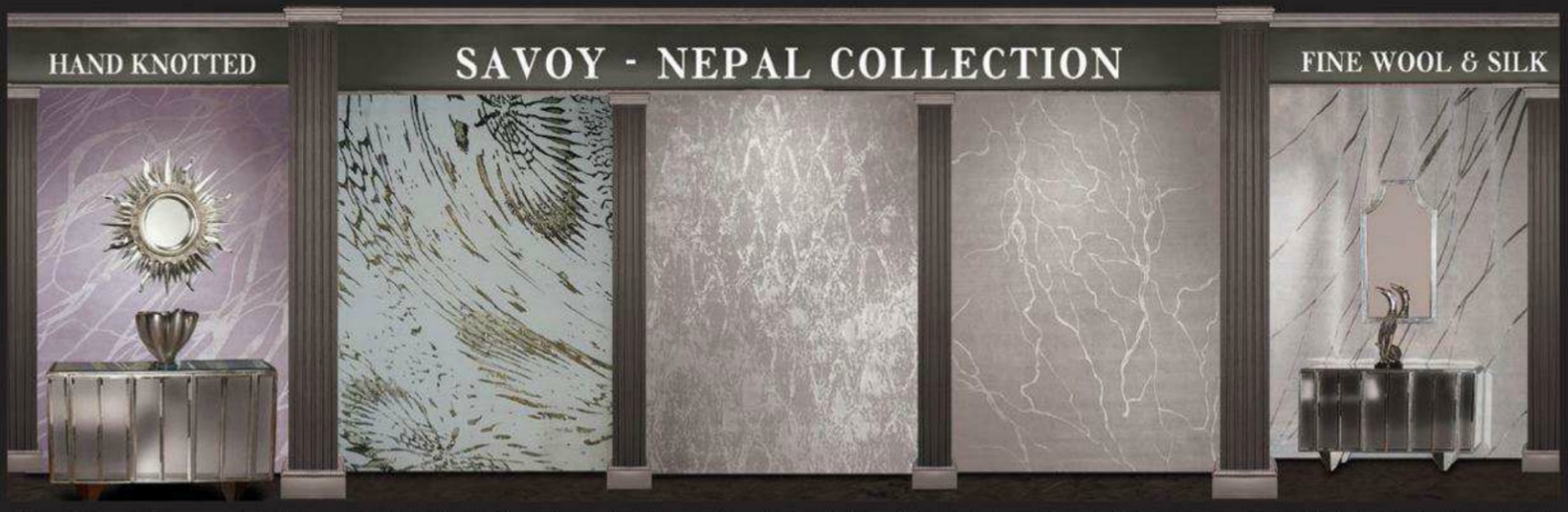

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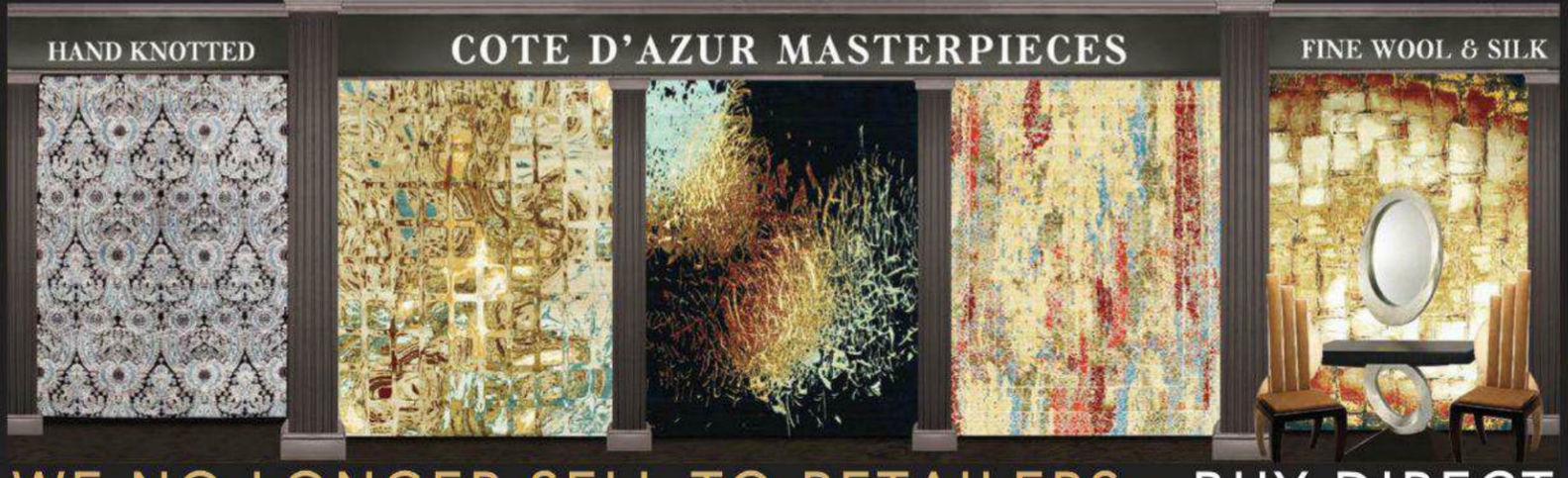

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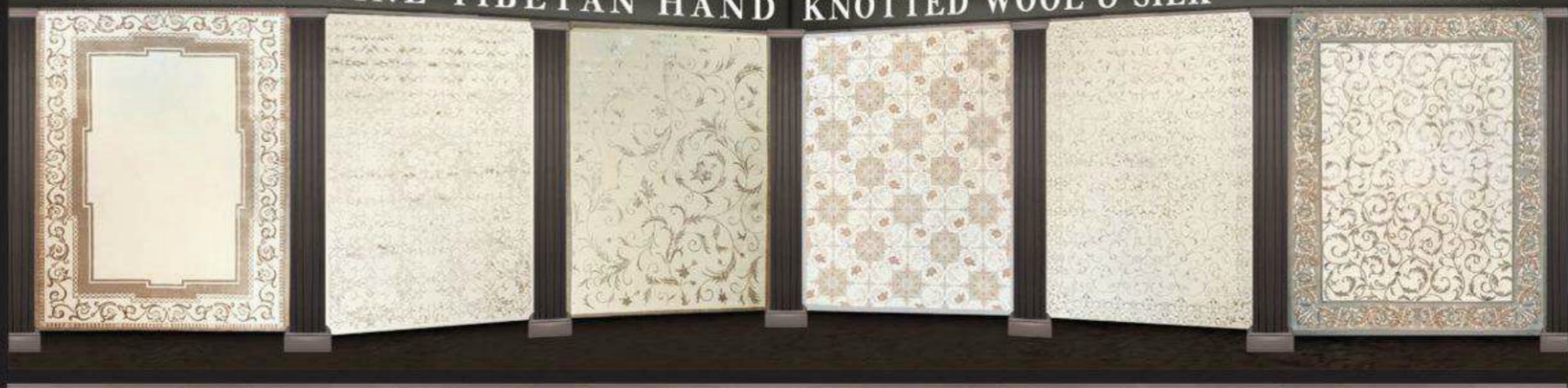

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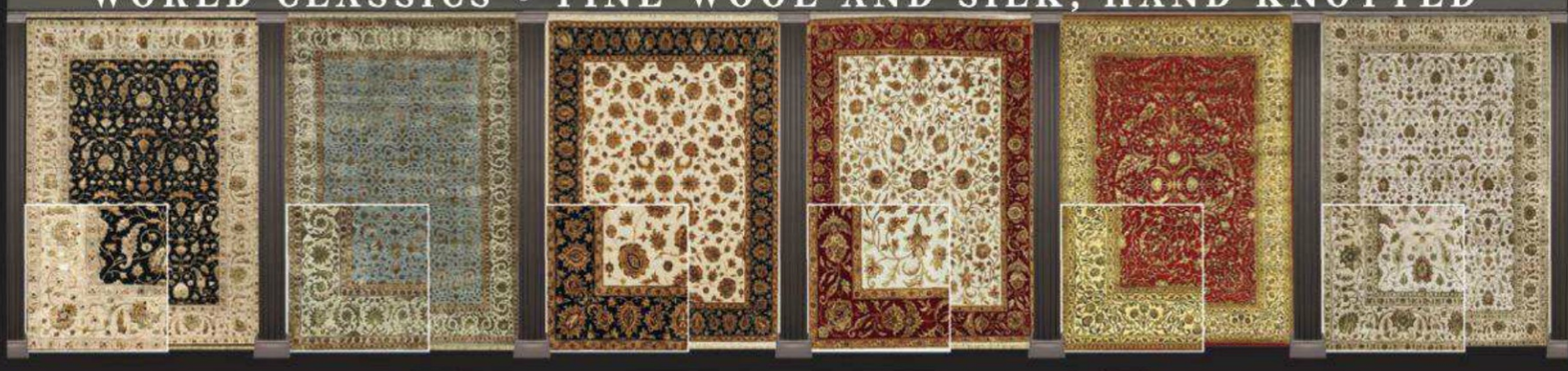

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NOVEMBER 2012

HOLIDAY HOMES

132 SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW
A formal nature theme feels right at home in decorating guru Debbie Travis's abode

138 GLITTERING PRIZE
For a family holiday home that truly sparkles, homeowner Stephanie Vogler relies on simplicity and sumptuous style

146 TRUE TO FORMAL
Elegance comes naturally to Dee Dee Taylor Eustace, so during the holidays she trusts her gut and makes traditional trendy again

HOLIDAY CRAFTS

60 ORNAMENTALLY YOURS
Six ingenious ways to bedeck and bedazzle traditional store-bought tree ornaments

68 SPECIAL DELIVERY
This Christmas, send your love with a handmade card

76 SMALL WONDERS
A perfectly crafted vintage-style miniature village made by hand

78 RIBBON, PAPER, SCISSORS
Inspired gift-wrapping ideas for perfectly presenting your heartfelt handiwork

86 LOVE BITES
You're sure to find yourself under the mistletoe this year by giving these delicious edible gifts

HOLIDAY DECORATING

92 BETTER OFF RED
Black, white and red all over – it's the perfect colour combination to meet this family of five's stress-free decorating needs

96 GREEN WITH ENVY
This holiday we've brought green front and centre with layer upon layer of the verdant hue

104 ALL THE TRIMMINGS
Five no-fail steps everyone should take to decorate their treasured Christmas tree

110 TRADITION WITH A TWIST
Style at Home contributing design editor Christine Hanlon transforms her home into a holiday haven

114 LASTING IMPRESSIONS
Artificial greenery looks more lifelike than ever before. Here's how to incorporate the faux stuff into your home this holiday

132

HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS

119 GIVE THE GIFT
We've scoured the stores and wandered the web to bring you our yearly wish list of all the best goodies, gadgets and more

COLUMNS

STYLE NEWS
Brilliant brass side tables, a statement pendant light, the reinterpretation of an iconic chair and more **33**

DESSERT OF THE MONTH
Tart cranberry and zesty lemon combine in this sweet union of fearless flavours **38**

DOLLARS & SENSE
Handyman and TV star Scott McGillivray tells you where to save and where to spend **42**

INSIDE DESIGN
The design-dominating duo Bob and Cortney Novogratz **44**

HIGH OR LOW
Layers of natural elements and neutral colours will have you dreaming of a white Christmas, all on a small flurry or big blizzard budget **50**

FOOD & DRINKS

LET THEM EAT CAKE!
One cake dressed to the nines in two different ways for you to share this holiday season **154**

TASTINGS
Wine expert Angela Aiello is making a list and checking it twice with her wine-gift recommendations **162**

REGULARS

From our Editor **16**
Letters from Home **22**
Date With Style **28**
Styleathome.com **29**
Workbook **166**
Style Statement **170**

WIN THIS

E-NEWSLETTER PRIZE
A Honeywell with Febreze Freshness Fan **29**

ON THE COVER
A holiday scene glimmers in shades of silver, white and green **132**

PHOTOGRAPHY
Monic Richard

38

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All holiday, ALL THE TIME

When you work at a decorating magazine, preparing for the holidays is a year-round occupation. We stockpile ornaments in January, test Christmas recipes in July and talk about holiday houses at pretty much every scouting meeting (where the design editors and I choose which homes we'd like to show in future issues of *Style at Home*).

The results are what you'll see in this issue. So what makes a home perfect for featuring in a holiday decorating story? It's that special mix of warm and cozy, classic and modern, fresh and festive. We look for a feeling of joy and celebration, and, of course, we make sure the homeowners love Christmas as much as we do!

Over the past 15 years, we've featured some spectacular holiday houses, and this issue's homes definitely rise to the occasion. Whether it's architect Dee Dee Taylor Eustace's exquisite traditional decor ("True to Formal," page 146), decorating guru Debbie Travis's elegant natural theme ("Something Old, Something New," page 132) or Vancouver store owner Stephanie Vogler's pretty, casual style ("Glittering Prize," page 138), we're sure you'll find inspiring ideas to incorporate into your own home this year.

Erin

Erin McLaughlin erin@styleathome.com

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BEHIND THE SCENES

Here we are perfecting the Christmas tree for our how-to story ("All the Trimmings," page 104) and that's me filming an episode of *Steven and Chris* at Victoria Mifsud-Teti's house ("Lasting Impressions," page 114).

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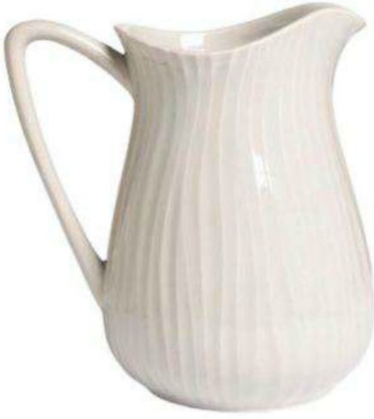

ON MY WISH LIST

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WHERE'S **THE WOOD?**

In the October 2012 issue almost every kitchen featured was white or in shades thereof. I find that boring and think you should show more variety. What's wrong with having unpainted wood cabinets?

BEV LACASSE, VIA EMAIL

CUT **AND STYLE**

I'm so pleased to be a subscriber. My hair stylist put me on to you. Every time I would go to get my hair done, I'd search through her piles of magazines for *Style at Home*. I'm so glad to get it now and thankful for what a wonderful job you do. We have two more rooms to renovate in our current home, and in the future, I'll be building my dream home with the help of many of your back issues!

MARTHA COLLINS, OSOYOOS, BC

SAFETY **FIRST**

I received my first issue of *Style at Home* today and I thoroughly enjoyed reading the magazine, however, I was disturbed to see the picture on page 126 (October 2012) of a father and two boys in a canoe without life jackets. How foolish!

ELAINE, BARRIE, ON

EDITOR'S NOTE: *We absolutely agree, and we're glad our readers have such keen eyes! We apologize for the oversight and we'll be sure to be more careful in the future.*

COLOGNE
200 cm dining table
$799

COLOGNE Acacia veneer bench **$349**
CARMEN Chair **$119**
IRIS Pendant **$149**

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Love to decorate for the holidays?

KORHANI HOME MAKES IT EASY

Are you a holiday traditionalist or someone who likes to mix it up each year? Whatever your preference, **KORHANI home** has the answer this season. With its new line of fully adorned holiday trees in one of three palettes, decorating your home has never been easier. In partnership with ***Style at Home*** editor-in-chief **Erin McLaughlin**, **KORHANI home's** creative director **Kirsten Korhani** developed three distinct looks that will suit every homeowner's personal holiday style – each for one low price with free shipping and handling. Order online today at **korhani.com** to receive yours in time to decorate your home for this year's festivities!

Turquoise Wonderland

A full-skirted white-flocked 7-foot tree creates a winter wonderland with its glittery silver and blue palette.

Price $350

Includes pre-lit tree, decorations & tree skirt.
FREE SHIPPING

TREE-TRIMMING TIPS FROM KORHANI HOME

1 Your tree comes pre-lit, so you can begin by arranging the largest ornaments first.

2 Continue working with medium-sized ornaments next.

3 Make sure to balance shapes and colours.

4 Fill in any holes with sparkly snowflake ornaments.

5 Mix and match shiny with matte.

6 Add icicles to finish off the look.

Avantgarde Craft

A traditional look for lovers of classic holiday style, red and green ornaments adorn this 7.5-foot tree. Hits of gold add sparkle.

Price $350

Includes pre-lit tree, decorations & tree skirt.
FREE SHIPPING

Each tree collection-in-a-box arrives on your doorstep complete with one tree pre-wired with glimmering white lights, a collection of ornaments to match and a coordinating tree skirt – all ready to assemble in minutes. For an additional price, you can also order a coordinating 63" x 89" area rug to accent your decor.

See **korhani.com** for complete details, ordering information and palette options, or contact customerservice@korhani.com.

1 A natural scheme lends itself to woodland-inspired decorations.

2 Follow the same rule, placing large ornaments first, then moving to medium and small.

3 Fill in any holes with oversized glittering reindeer.

4 Botanical elements like faux sprayed eucalyptus add dimension.

5 Make sure that glitter is balanced with the richer tones on a natural-inspired tree.

6 The final touches are sweet cardinals right at eye level.

Opulence
Two 4-foot mini trees in a dramatic black and silver colour scheme are perfect for small spaces.
Price $140
Includes 2 pre-lit trees, decorations & tree skirts.
FREE SHIPPING
AT HOME WITH ART
pattern
GUESS BY MARCIANO
Bill Blass

1 Don't be afraid to go for drama in a small space – hang black and white ornaments on the silver tree and vice versa on the black tree – a designer touch is to layer silver on silver, using a variety of finishes.

2 Matte black and gunmetal grey look great on the silver tree.

3 Glossy black and striking silver make a bold statement on the black tree, while white accents are an unexpected holiday touch but work perfectly with this chic contemporary palette.

For more information about ordering these trees, go to korhani.com.

FALLING **FOR YOU**

I couldn't help but drop you a line to thank you for your story "Taking the Fall" (page 132) in the October 2012 issue. We recently moved into a gorgeous country home that badly needed a change of colour scheme. This story was a major source of inspiration. We have since removed the paint from our mantel to reveal the beautiful wood underneath. We also used the colour combination of light charcoal, rust and eggshell in the living room and it feels so welcoming. The house is full of candles and cut flowers (perhaps weeds?) that look lovely! Your issue couldn't have arrived at a better time for us. Thank you!

MARY MITCHELL, VIA EMAIL

YOU COULD **WIN!**

The writer of this issue's favourite letter will receive a customized **John Frieda Hair Care** prize pack with products that lighten, brighten, increase volume, neutralize brassiness and repair damage.

TOTAL VALUE: $180!

S@H READERS TWEET

Hard to imagine the home in the October issue of *Style at Home* was decorated 30 years ago by the late Ray Staples – a true visionary of our time.
@DianaGallian

Reading my *Style at Home,* listening to the thunder. Great Saturday night for me. Now if only my dream kitchen would come true....
@Wo0DeNSp00N

Thanks to the *Style at Home* Get Organized With Style issue, I was inspired to use old scrapbooking supplies to organize my closet!
@nldsr

Nautical nursery, country kitchen, mod prairie home – can't pick a fave story from the latest *Style at Home*. Great issue!
@ramblingreno

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we love to hear from you!

Email us at letters@styleathome.com or write to us at *Style at Home*, Letters from Home, 25 Sheppard Ave. W., Suite 100, Toronto, Ont. M2N 6S7.

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Stelpro Design is proud to present their all new **SHC series electronic convector** designed with your comfort and decor in mind. This little gem is guaranteed to not only keep you warm and cozy but will also add a touch of modern to any room thanks to its sleek lines and one-of-a-kind look. Manufactured entirely in Canada, this *comfort convector* is the total package; chic design, uncompromising in comfort and quality, and all of this at an unbeatable price. It will be the envy of your guests this holiday season.

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DATE WITH *style*

Don't miss *Style at Home* editors and designers on television and at these events.

WE'RE ON TV!

« Watch editor-in-chief **Erin McLaughlin** on CBC's *Steven and Chris*. For air dates and times, check your local listings or go to cbc.ca/stevenandchris.

Editor-in-chief **Erin McLaughlin** on set with Steven Sabados and Chris Hyndman.

HGTV

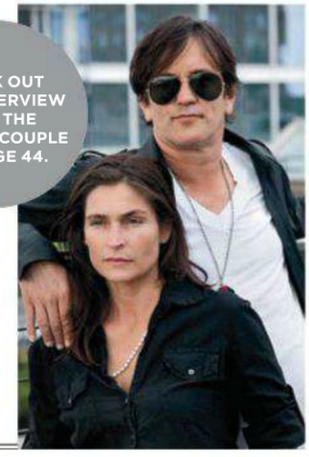
« Check out *Four Houses Canada*, where four strangers tour and rate each other's homes every episode. Each home is critiqued for style and design, livability and originality. The highest-scoring homeowner wins a cash prize and a photo feature in *Style at Home*! *Four Houses Canada* airs Thursdays at 9 p.m. ET/PT on HGTV. For more details, visit hgtv.ca.

YOU'RE INVITED!

Join *Style at Home* as we welcome the intrepid design duo Bob and Cortney Novogratz to CB2 in Toronto on October 11, 2012.

For more details, visit styleathome.com/novogratz.

CHECK OUT OUR INTERVIEW WITH THE STYLISH COUPLE ON PAGE 44.



PHOTOGRAPHY, TIM GEANEY (BOB & CORTNEY NOVOGRATZ)

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PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (PORTRAITS), ISTOCKPHOTO

styleathome.com *online right now*

SENIOR WEB EDITOR **NATALIE DISCALA** (LEFT) AND WEB EDITOR **ELAINE SONG** TELL US WHAT'S NEW ONLINE THIS MONTH.

organizing 101: 30 HOLIDAY CLUTTER BUSTERS

STYLEATHOME.COM/HOLIDAYCLUTTER

5 FUN AND EASY GIFT-WRAPPING IDEAS

STYLEATHOME.COM/GIFTWRAPPING

9 holiday DECOR projects

STYLEATHOME.COM/HOLIDAYPROJECTS

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WIN THIS!

This month, you could win one of four **Honeywell with Febreze Freshness fans.** The fan combines two devices into one for convenient odour elimination and home climate control. This new fan provides both quiet and effective cooling, and also uses Febreze Set & Refresh scent cartridges for whole room odour elimination and freshening.

TO ENTER, VISIT STYLEATHOME.COM/NEWSLETTER

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HONEY, I'M STRONG

Nicole Scherzinger knows a thing or two about strength—from her empowering songs to her rockin' body. For a moisture makeover, Nicole relies on **Honey, I'm Strong Rinse Off Treatment**, which protects against styling damage from root to tip.

The indulgent honey apricot formula gets the job done by revitalizing damaged hair, but leaves a silky-smooth finish with endless shine (and a divine scent!).

"With all the styling I get for performances and photo shoots, my hair can end up really dry. The Rinse Off Treatment brings my hair back to life. I couldn't live without it!"

—Nicole Scherzinger

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Visit us at **herbalessences.ca** for more!

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to rock any style
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PRODUCER JESSICA WAKS

stylenews

Decor, trends, style ideas and more – we bring you the latest and greatest inspirations.

'tis the SEASON

TO LEARN HOW TO CREATE THIS DIPPED PINE CONE WREATH, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

For this issue's project of the month, managing editor and resident crafter Catherine Therrien handcrafts a rustic pine cone wreath but with a modern twist – dipping half of it in winter-white paint for a snow-covered effect. So gather up some pine cones, pull out your supplies and turn up the carols for an afternoon where all is calm and all is bright.

Find more fun and festive holiday craft ideas at **STYLEATHOME.COM/CRAFTS.**

PHOTOGRAPHY, JOE KIM/TC MEDIA; STYLING, CATHERINE THERRIEN

crystal clear

The Amanda pendant light is just one of the standout pieces from Thomas Pheasant's latest collection for Baker. Handcrafted of crystal and brass in Florence, Italy, it symbolizes the understated elegance Pheasant is known for and marks 10 years since he first teamed up with Baker.

Learn more about Thomas's design tips, tricks and inspiration at **STYLEATHOME.COM/THOMASPHEASANT.**

Thomas Pheasant Amanda **PENDANT LIGHT,** $4,980, Studio B, studiobhome.com.

Strandmon **WING CHAIR** in Svanby Grey, $279, IKEA, ikea.ca.

1951

Considered to be "top modern with royal comfort," the MK chair was one of the most popular pieces at the St. Erik's Trade Fair in Stockholm, Sweden, the equivalent to today's Stockholm Furniture & Light Fair.

DÉJÀ VU

SIXTY-ONE YEARS AFTER IT GRACED THE COVER OF IKEA'S CATALOGUE, THE MK CHAIR HAS BEEN REINTERPRETED AND REINTRODUCED AS THE STRANDMON CHAIR. OFFERING A CLASSIC SILHOUETTE AND GENEROUS PROPORTIONS, IT WILL BE ONE OF THE MOST COVETED AND COMFORTABLE SEATS IN THE HOUSE.

CLOSE-KNIT COMMUNITY

Loblaw's Everyday Essentials has translated the warm and fuzzy feeling you get from giving back to the community into a literal experience with its creamy, woven Habitat for Humanity Canada (HFHC) throw. Net proceeds from the all-season throw benefit HFHC's programs, including the 360 Build Smart initiative, which aims to build sustainable communities across Canada.

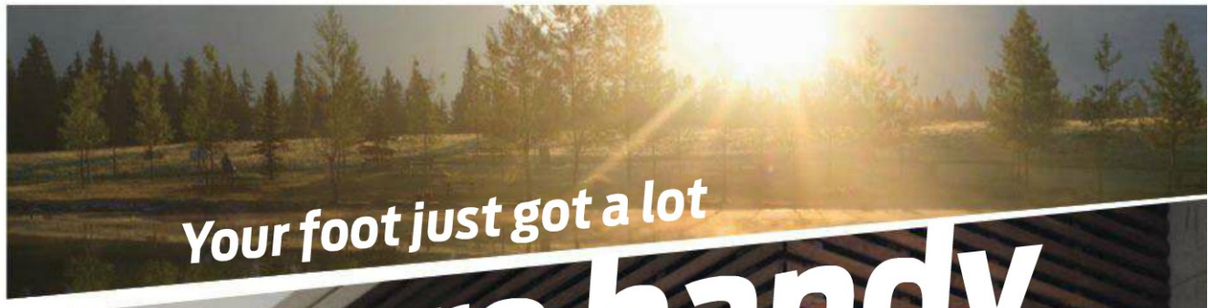
Everyday Essentials Habitat for Humanity Canada **THROW,** $19, Loblaws, Real Canadian Superstore, superstore.ca.

IN BLOOM

DESIGNERS LOVE FOLDING SCREENS FOR THEIR ABILITY TO FILL A CORNER, DIVIDE A ROOM OR SIMPLY MAKE A BOLD STYLE STATEMENT. CHRISTOPHER GUY'S STRIKING, CARVED FLORAL CREATION FROM HIS NEW MADEMOISELLE COLLECTION IS NO EXCEPTION.

Christopher Guy Mademoiselle Collection Camellia **SCREEN** in Black Satin, $12,170, Barrymore Furniture, barrymorefurniture.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (THROW)



Your foot just got a lot more handy.

The all-new Escape features an innovative, class-exclusive available hands-free liftgate.*

Introducing a liftgate you open and close with your foot. Perfect for those times when you have your hands full and feet free. Just another reason to check out the stylishly capable, tech-savvy, totally reimagined 2013 Escape. It's ready for anything. **ford.ca**

THE ALL-NEW 2013 **ESCAPE**

Ford

Go Further

Vehicle may be shown with optional equipment. *Class is Small Utilities versus 2011/2012 comparable competitors. Some drivers input required. Requires having available Intelligent Access key on your person. Not available with Class II Trailer. ©2012 Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited. All rights reserved.

1m2 **STAIRCASE,** from $3,200, EeStairs, eestairs.com.

wind me up

Need a stair solution for your loft or attic? EeStairs's 1m2 staircase can take you up a storey using less than one square metre of floor area. Made of steel and available in several colours, the contemporary design commands attention.

small space

This modern interpretation of a spiral staircase is irresistible with its shiny, powder-coated finish and sleek design.

Martini **SIDE TABLE** in Antique Brass, $179, West Elm, westelm.com.

LOW

Hans Barbell **SIDE TABLE** in Polished Brass, $1,250 US, Jonathan Adler, jonathanadler.com.

HIGH

BRASS-TASTIC

ADD A JOLT OF SHIMMERING METAL TO YOUR SPACE WITH SIDE TABLES THAT BOAST A GLAMOROUS BRASS SHEEN IN SLEEK, MODERN FORMS. WEST ELM'S MARTINI IS ANTIQUED AND HOLLOW FOR EASY TRANSPORT, WHILE JONATHAN ADLER'S IS HAND-CAST, HAND-POLISHED AND ROCK-SOLID.

Cotton Tuxedo **TOSS CUSHIONS** with down/feather insert, $185 US each, Stone Textile, stone-textilestudio.com.

Each month, *Style at Home* blogger and decor enthusiast Christine Dovey of Bijou and Boheme (bijouandboheme.blogspot.ca) reveals what's trending on the web.

First up, meet Clipix (clipix.com), the newest online tool that makes organizing your inspirations so much easier. With its simple-to-use bookmarking button, images, articles, recipes and gift ideas can be stored and even categorized in one central place. If you're anything like me and forever finding online genius, this tool is your ticket to compilation goodness.

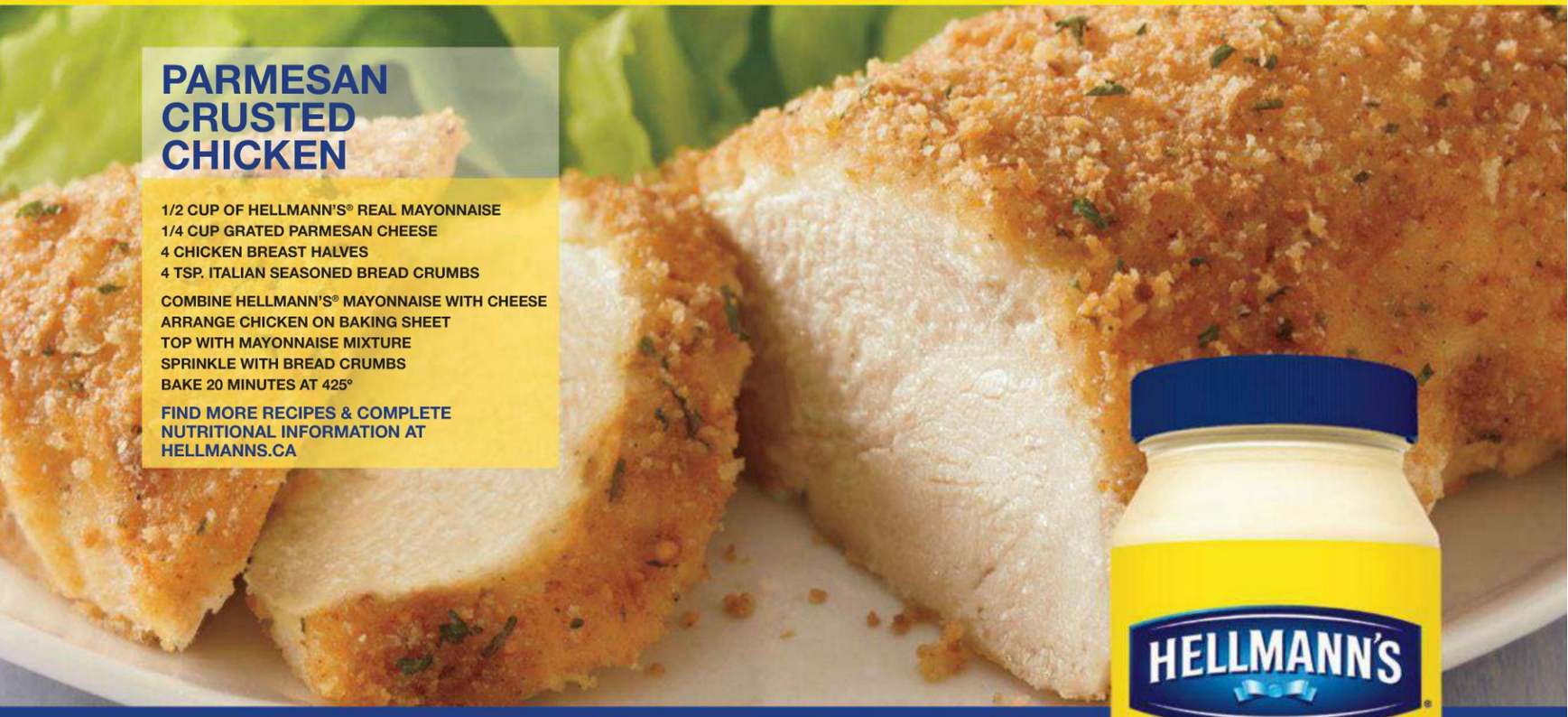
One website that my newly installed Clipix button is going to see plenty of action from is Stone Textile. Started by designer and blogger Elizabeth Mollen, this shop is packed with textile gorgeousness, including the most amazing three-dimensional folded-fabric toss cushions – the Tuxedo is at the very top of my grown-up Christmas list!

Another item that ranks high on my list is an overdyed rug from the Etsy shop London Varner. You can either buy from its very reasonably priced selection of vintage rugs or, and this is the best part, simply state the size and colour and the stars at London Varner will find you a rug and dye it to your specifications – they'll also gladly dye a rug you already own!

Vintage Persian **RUG** in Indigo Sapphire, 4.5′ x 6.5′, $400 US, London Varner, londonvarner.etsy.com.

Unilever

TODAY YOU MAKE CHICKEN OUTRAGEOUSLY JUICY.



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ARRANGE CHICKEN ON BAKING SHEET
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cranberry scones

Tart cranberry and zesty lemon collide in this sweet union of fearless flavours.

IT MAY BE A STAPLE on the holiday dinner table, but we think the peppy flavour of cranberry suits a morning meal just as well. Combined with fresh lemon and a touch of sweetness, this splendidly sour fruit adds a zip to buttery, flaky scones that will awaken taste buds right out of their cold-induced slumber – even on the darkest of winter mornings.

PRODUCER
TARA BALLANTYNE

TEXT
ERYN CHESNEY

PHOTOGRAPHY
JOE KIM

RECIPE DEVELOPMENT & FOOD STYLING, TARA BALLANTYNE; PHOTOGRAPHY, JOE KIM/TC MEDIA

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PREP TIME **10** MINUTES

cranberry scones

INGREDIENTS

MAKES 16 SCONES

- 1⅔ cups all-purpose flour
- 1⅓ cups rolled oats
- ⅓ cup granulated sugar
- ½ tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp salt
- Zest of 1 lemon
- ⅔ cup unsalted butter
- 1 tsp freshly squeezed lemon juice
- ½ cup skim milk
- 1 egg
- ¾ cup cranberries, fresh or frozen
- 1 egg, beaten
- Raw sugar for garnish

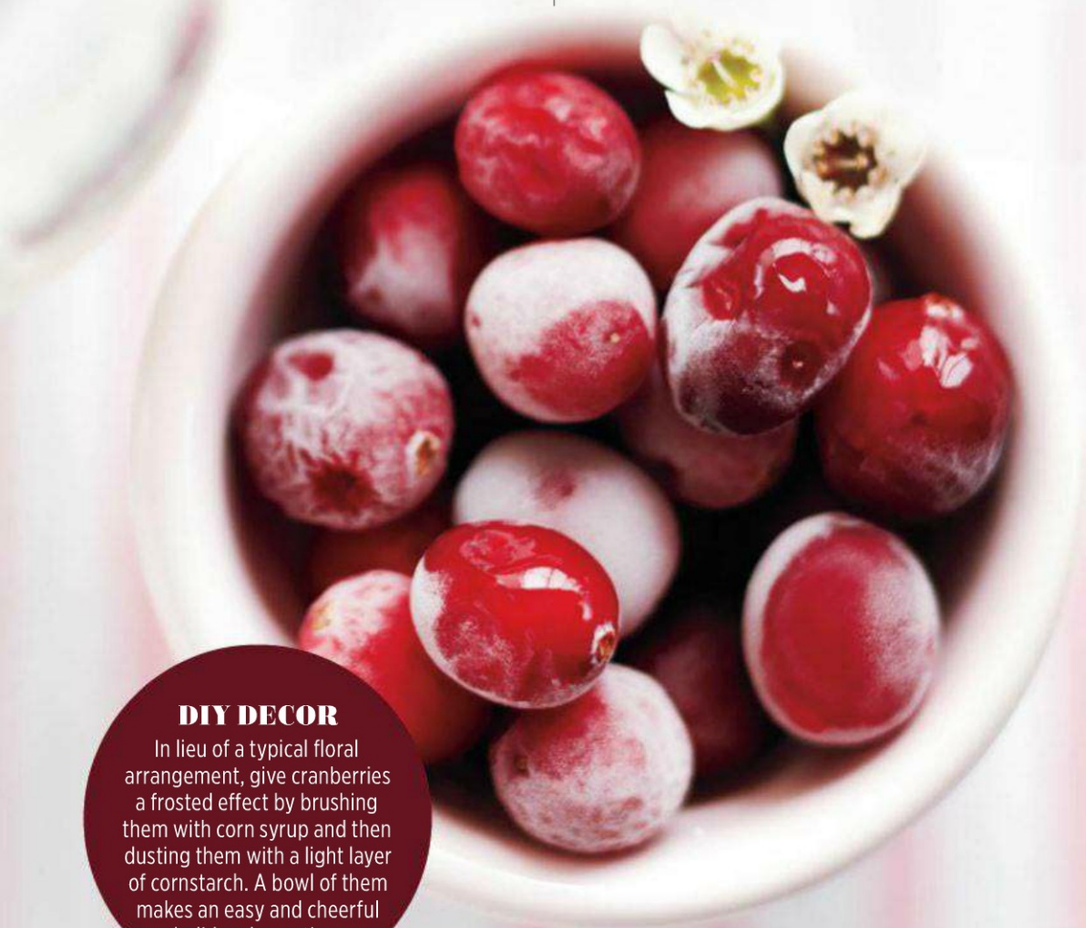
1. PREHEAT THE OVEN to 400°F. Whisk together the flour, rolled oats, sugar, baking powder, salt and lemon zest. Cut the butter into small pieces and work it into the flour mixture until it resembles coarse meal.

2. IN A MEDIUM BOWL, mix together the lemon juice and skim milk to create buttermilk. Let sit for 5 minutes and then whisk in the egg.

3. POUR THE BUTTERMILK MIXTURE into the flour mixture and, using a spatula, fold everything together until the flour is moistened (batter will be chunky). Add in the cranberries and fold through.

4. PAT OUT THE DOUGH to about ½" thick and cut into rounds using a cookie cutter or knife.

5. PLACE THE SCONES on a non-stick baking sheet and brush with the beaten egg. Sprinkle the tops with raw sugar. Bake for about 18 minutes, or until golden brown.



DIY DECOR

In lieu of a typical floral arrangement, give cranberries a frosted effect by brushing them with corn syrup and then dusting them with a light layer of cornstarch. A bowl of them makes an easy and cheerful holiday decoration.

Indulge in more sweet creations from our Dessert of the Month column. Visit **STYLEATHOME.COM/DESSERTOFTHEMONTH.**

PRESIDENT'S CHOICE® BLACK LABEL COLLECTION

CLASSIC BAKED FIORELLI WITH RAPINI & ITALIAN SAUSAGE

Serves: 6 • Prep time: 30 minutes
Cooking time: 80 minutes • Stand time: 5 minutes

1. Preheat oven to 400°F (200°C). Lightly grease a 9 cup casserole dish.

2. In large saucepan of boiling salted water, cook Fiorelli Pasta for 8-10 minutes or until tender. Drain. Set aside.

3. In large nonstick frying pan, heat oil over medium-high heat; add sausage and cook, stirring to break up meat, for 8-10 minutes or until cooked through. Set aside.

4. Trim ends of rapini stems. Coarsely chop rapini leaves and stems. In saucepan of boiling water, cook rapini for 2-3 minutes or until stems are tender. Drain. Rinse under cold running water to cool. Drain well. Squeeze excess water out.

5. In large bowl, gently stir together Fiorelli Pasta, sausage and its juices, rapini, three-quarters of the Tomato Basil Pasta Sauce and cream. Transfer to baking dish. Cover dish with foil.

6. Bake in centre of oven for 30 minutes. Remove foil; sprinkle evenly with cheese and bake another 20 minutes or until sauce is bubbly and top is browned. Let stand 5 minutes before serving. Warm remaining pasta sauce to serve on the side.

3-1/2 CUPS (875 ML) PC® BLACK LABEL FIORELLI PASTA
1 TBSP (15 ML) OLIVE OIL
3 PC® MILD ITALIAN SAUSAGE, CASINGS REMOVED
HALF BUNCH RAPINI
1 JAR (650 ML) PC® BLACK LABEL TOMATO BASIL PASTA SAUCE
1/3 CUP (75 ML) 35% WHIPPING CREAM
1/2 CUP (125 ML) FRESHLY GRATED PC® SPLENDIDO PARMIGIANO REGGIANO

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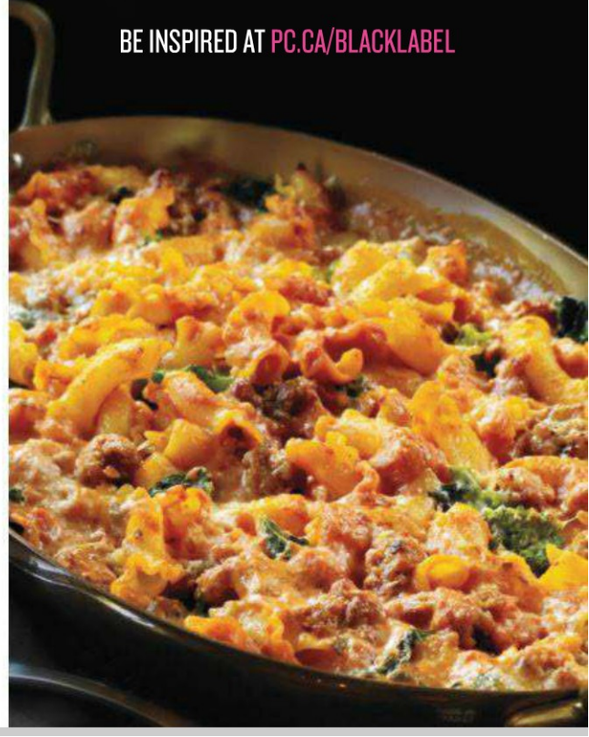
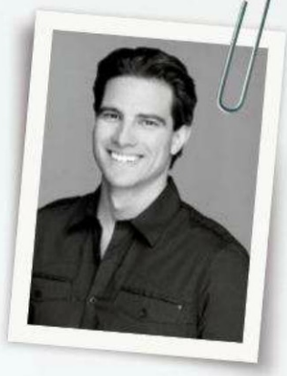


FACT OR FICTION:

Three bedrooms are better than two.



Renovating your home to suit a future buyer instead of yourself could keep you from having the home of your dreams.

Does a three-bedroom house sell faster than a two-bedroom? A real estate agent will likely tell you that it does. While this may be true, there are exceptions. If you're planning a reno and wondering whether you should downsize the number of bedrooms in your home, here are some things to consider.

TEXT SCOTT MCGILLIVRAY

lifestyle choices

Before you make the decision to remove a bedroom, it's important to really think about how you live in the space. If the kids have moved out and the third bedroom has become nothing but a storage area, do you really need it? On the other hand, if you're a young family with one child and planning on having another, you'll need the extra space eventually. Converting a three-bedroom home to a two-bedroom can work, but it has to suit not only your current lifestyle but your future one as well.

resale potential

According to a study by the National Association of Realtors, three bedrooms and two bathrooms is the most saleable configuration for a home as it appeals to the largest segment of the market: families with one or two children living at home. But keep in mind that families are not the only buyers looking for the perfect space; for people who are single or downsizing, a two-bedroom house might be just what they're after. If you're hoping to resell your home in the near future, you should take the cost of the renovation versus the value of the home into consideration – your remodel has to make sense for your bottom line.

investment potential

Investors naturally want the most bang for their buck when they buy a home. In the past, that "bang" has been about how many bedrooms there are, but that's changing. As a landlord, I'm always aware of how much more I can charge for a home with an extra bedroom, but more and more renters are looking for luxury. A steam room, a fantastic bathroom or a large master with a walk-in closet could be the lure, and snag just as much rent as a third bedroom would. I've renovated enough properties to know that renters have different needs, and an upscale two-bedroom property could be the ideal space for lots of people, so don't let the myth of the third bedroom stand in your way.

open options

I know a family that bought a great three-bedroom fixer-upper in a terrific neighbourhood. When they renovated, they decided to make the third bedroom into the biggest bathroom I've ever seen. It has everything you could imagine: a huge soaker tub, a glassed-in shower, heated floors and more. Sounds great, right? Sure, but now they have two growing boys who want their own rooms and there aren't enough to go around. Weighing the pros and cons is an important step before you change the configuration of your house. Just imagine five or 10 years down the road: Will you still be happy with your decision?

Scott McGillivray is the host of HGTV's *Income Property*. Catch back-to-back episodes Thursdays at 9 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. on HGTV.

PHOTOGRAPHY, TIM LEYES, COURTESY OF HGTV CANADA (PORTRAIT); ISTOCKPHOTO (MEASURING TAPE & CONSTRUCTION)

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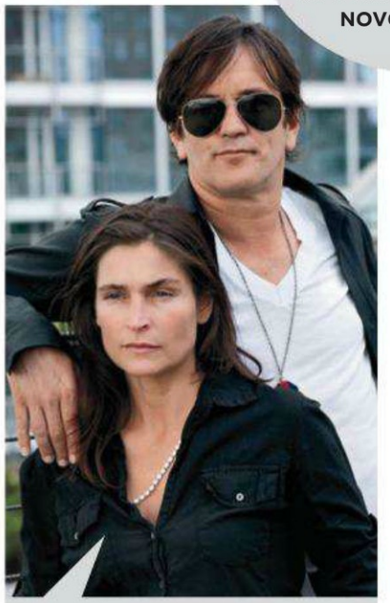
Join *Style at Home* on Oct. 11, 2012 as we welcome Bob and Cortney Novogratz to CB2 in Toronto. To attend this special VIP event and for more details, visit **STYLEATHOME.COM/NOVOGRATZ.**



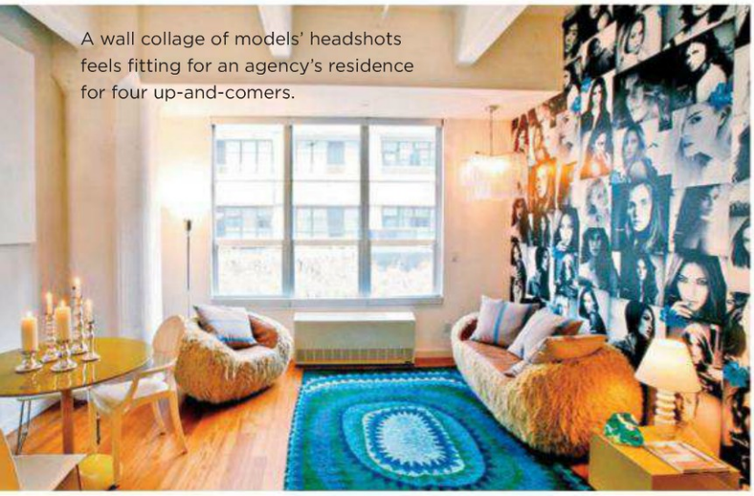
WHO Bob and Cortney Novogratz claimed fame on Bravo's *9 by Design* and are now on their second season of HGTV's *Home by Novogratz.*

WHY WE LOVE THEM
Somehow, between filming their show, designing city-chic spaces and raising seven kids, they found time to do more: release a brand-new book, as well as a product line for CB2. We're just thankful for the chance to bring a bit of that iconic urban-eclectic style home.

Making antiques look fresh and modern is a Novogratz signature move: Would you believe that all the furniture in this room (besides the yellow sofa) is vintage?

the magnificent NOVOGRATZES

PRODUCER SARA CATION



A wall collage of models' headshots feels fitting for an agency's residence for four up-and-comers.

STYLE AT HOME What are the trademarks of your style?
BOB NOVOGRATZ Mixing vintage with modern and pops of colour.

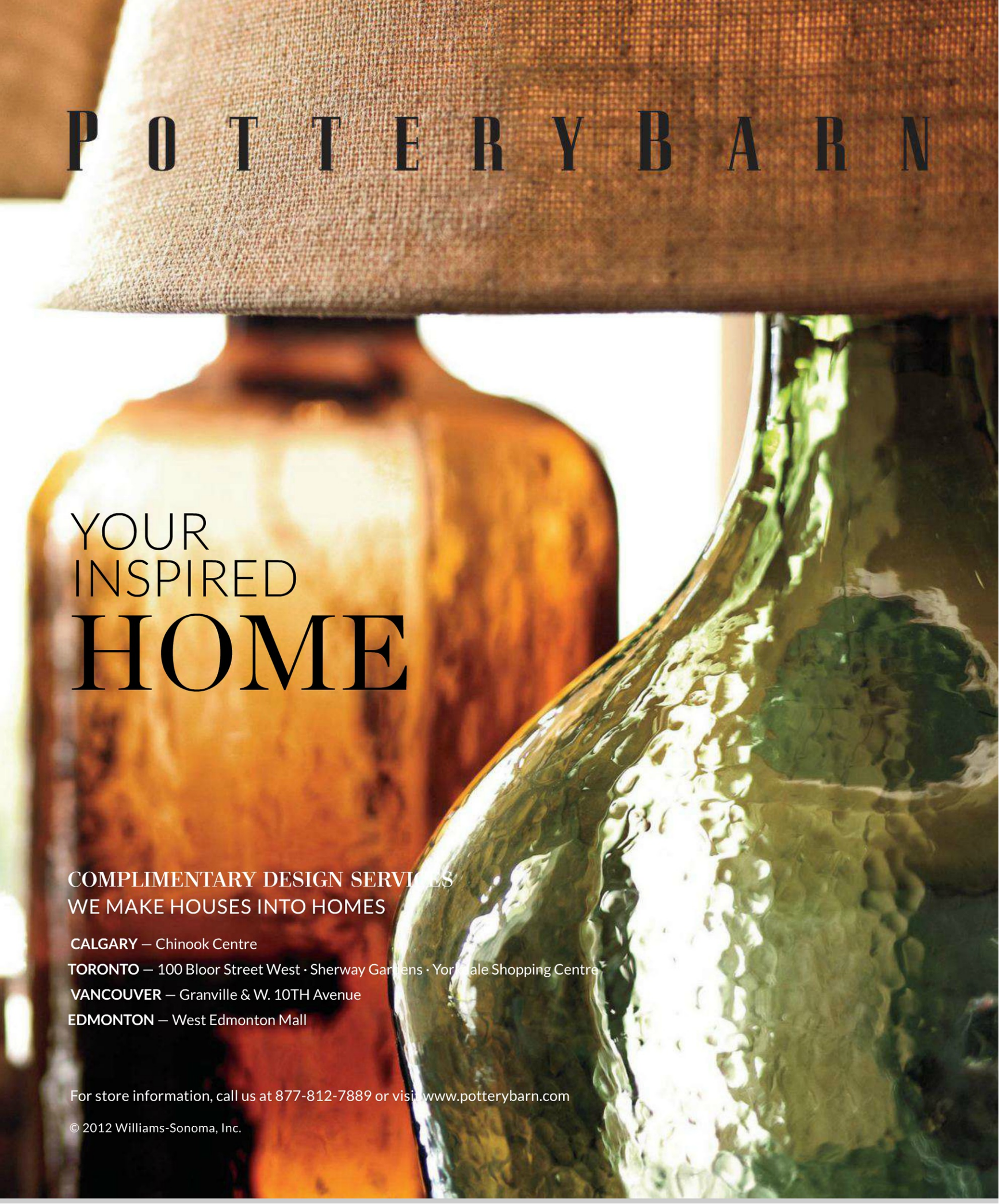
Even though your style has changed over the years, what has remained the same?
Our love of vintage. The world often feels so homogenized – you could be in Brazil or Toronto or wherever and the decor could be the same. All it takes is that one antique, that one flea-market find, to make your home different than everyone else's.

What's your advice to a novice going antiquing?
Buy what you love. Start small and play around until you're happy with that piece, and then add from there. And don't go all antique – you don't want your house to look like your grandmother's.

And for choosing art?
Again, buy what you love. Do your research. Go to museums and art galleries to view as much art as you possibly can. The more you see, the more you understand what you like. Start small by supporting local artists or buying art from universities – it's like discovering a garage band before they get big.

When you approach a space, what are your first considerations?
Decluttering – that's the main thing. We like to start with a clean canvas, then take the stuff that means the most to the client and mix it with newer pieces.

PHOTOGRAPHY, TIM GEANEY (PORTRAIT), EMILEE RAMSIER (INTERIORS)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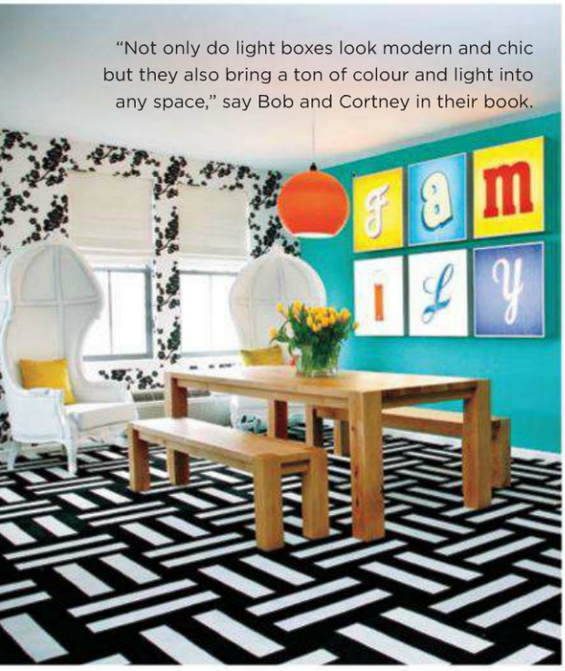
Do you and Cortney ever disagree on a direction to take in a client's decor?
Not often. We have a pretty good ying and yang going. After all, it's not really about our egos; it's about the project.

Can you tell us about one of your most eccentric client requests?
Once, someone asked us to put a TV above the tub, which we did *not* do.

What's your strategy for mixing budgets in a room?
Make a wish list and invest in your top items, whether it's a vintage chandelier or a nice couch.

And for mixing styles?
Good design is like a good book – the dots have to connect. Whatever the mix, it all has to somehow tell a story.



"Not only do light boxes look modern and chic but they also bring a ton of colour and light into any space," say Bob and Cortney in their book.

Bold graphics often factor into this duo's designs. While the black on the risers adds depth, the industrial-edge text adds interest.

A testament to Bob and Cortney's talent for making unique statements out of personal items, the shadow box above this bed contains the client's old Princeton sweater.

HOME BY NOVOGRATZ BY ROBERT AND CORTNEY NOVOGRATZ, ARTISAN BOOKS, 2012.

What would we be surprised to find in your own home?
A portrait of dogs playing poker...just kidding. Actually we have a couple of posters of Justin Bieber in the kids' rooms. He's a Novogratz guilty pleasure.

How do you maintain an organized home with seven kids?
We have help – we couldn't do it otherwise. But we're also kind of old school in that our kids aren't hopelessly spoiled. If you walk into their rooms, you won't find oversized Barbie dolls. You'll find creative and learning tools like instruments, books, Lego and crayons.

How do you get your kids involved in decorating?
We really count on our kids to teach us what's cool and relevant in music, art and design. As you get older, your cool factor goes down, so we feel like we can really learn from the youth.

Do your kids decorate their own rooms?
At first, we let them decorate just their doors and, later, their closets. Eventually, you have to let them take over, regardless of how good or bad the design might be – you just try to navigate as best you can.

What was the impetus behind your new book, *Home by Novogratz*?
I think everybody is interested in really cool designs on a budget, and we wanted to take readers through the process, not just the before and after. We reveal the stores and prices of everything. We even show projects we went over budget on. We tried to keep it as true as it could be.

What's your favourite item in your line for CB2?
The Family Rug is, by far, my favourite. In 2012, having seven kids is a big family, but everyone's dynamic is different. We all define family differently, and everybody wants to be part of one, no matter how big or small it is. And that's what this rug is all about.

PHOTOGRAPHY (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP): MATTHEW WILLIAMS, ARIADNA BUFI, EMILEE RAMSIER

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Yellow Lotus 2021-50 **PAINT,** Benjamin Moore, benjaminmoore.ca.

Whisper Violet 2070-70 **PAINT,** Benjamin Moore, benjaminmoore.ca.

FAVOURITES

COLOUR PALETTE
Right now, yellow with pale purple.

SUNDAY RITUAL
Church and then to Félix Restaurant & Bar in SoHo (felixnyc.com), where we get drunk off rosé. It's the only restaurant that'll let all seven kids in for more than an hour – they even let the kids cook in the kitchen sometimes!

DESIGN SHOW ON TV (OTHER THAN YOUR OWN)
Queer Eye for the Straight Guy.

SONG OF THE MOMENT
"Somebody That I Used to Know" by Gotye.

PLACES TO GO ANTIQUING
Brimfield market in Massachusetts, as well as the flea markets in Paris – we go about once every five years. 1stdibs.com, too.

5 THINGS YOU NEVER LEAVE HOME WITHOUT
Music, running shoes, a pair of Ray-Bans, a good book and a baseball hat.

STORE THAT YOU CAN'T ENTER WITHOUT MAKING A PURCHASE
Mantiques Modern (mantiquesmodern.com), a great store full of manly antiques like trophies and vintage coats. I rarely go there because I always buy something.

BUILDING
The Empire State Building – I asked Cortney to marry me there.

PHOTOGRAPHY (FROM TOP), COLE RAMSTAD, ISTOCKPHOTO

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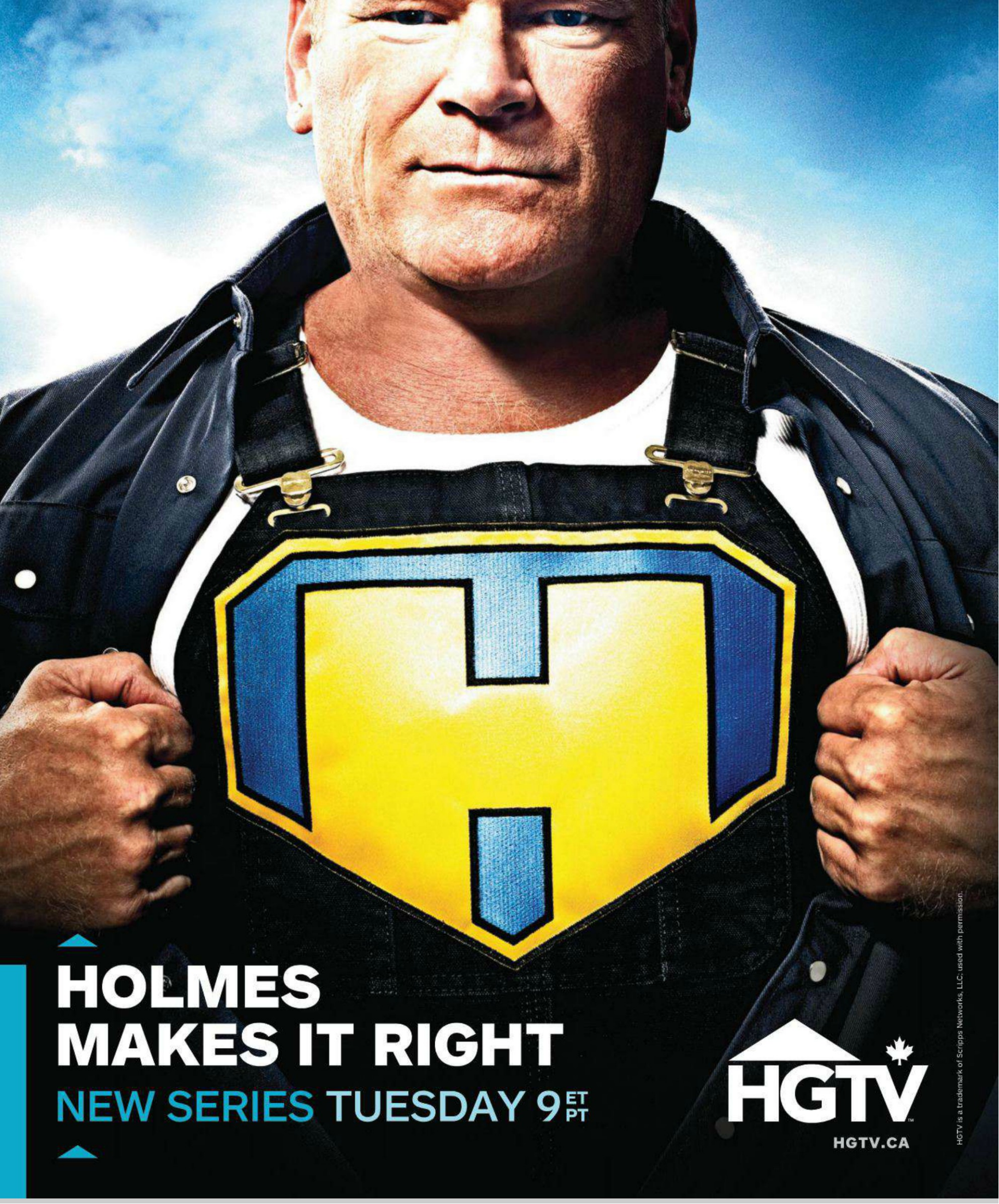
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high OR low...

can you tell the difference?

PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA

Layers of natural elements and neutral colours will have you dreaming of a white Christmas this year, all on a small flurry or big blizzard budget.

PRODUCER STEPHANIE HUNG

TEXT SARA CATION

PHOTOGRAPHY RYAN BROOK

HIGH $1,966.50

$48.50 Nani Iro cotton JG 1300 **FABRIC,** $25 per metre, The Workroom, theworkroom.ca; grosgrain 8800 **RIBBON** in 47b Gold, 36mm, $23.50 per metre, Mokuba, 416-504-5358.

$60.50 Handmade gold Momi **PAPER,** $13 per large sheet, The Paper Place, thepaperplace.ca; silk 30000 **RIBBON** in 68 Teal, 38mm, $47.50 per metre, Mokuba, 416-504-5358.

$53.50 Sara Morgan cotton Blue Hill 7630 **FABRIC,** $15 per metre, The Workroom, theworkroom.ca; silk 30000 **RIBBON** in 38 Green, 25mm, $28.50 per metre, Mokuba, 416-504-5358.

$137 Waxed cotton twill Lux Midi **BAG** in Cranberry, $120, The Brave Brown Bag, thebravebrownbag.com; vintage teardrop **ORNAMENT,** $12 US per set of 5, Vintageer, vintageer.etsy.com; vintage reflector **ORNAMENT,** $5 US, By the Wayside, bythewayside.etsy.com.

$21 Chiyogami 525 **PAPER** in Green, $16 per large sheet, The Paper Place, thepaperplace.ca; vintage **BELLS,** $5 US per set of 12, Raggedyree, raggedyree.etsy.com.

$62 Gold **PAPER,** $5 per roll, Hallmark, hallmark.ca; silk 30000 **RIBBON** in 50 Red, 50mm, $57 per metre, Mokuba, 416-504-5358.

$185 Mohair Luca **STUFFED BEAR,** Steiff, steiffusa.com.

$295 Twin wool Millennium Point **BLANKET** in Grey, The Bay, thebay.com.

$105 US Small **SHEEPSKIN,** Design Within Reach, dwr.com.

$999 White oak Big Sur **BENCH** in Natural, 71½", Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca.

LOW $825.50

$13.50 Red **PAPER,** $5 per roll, Hallmark, hallmark.ca; Avery star **STICKERS,** $2.50 per pack, Staples, staples.ca; metallic nylon **RIBBON,** $6 per roll, Michaels, michaels.com.

$13 Gold **PAPER,** $5 per roll, Hallmark, hallmark.ca; satin 1150 **RIBBON** in 102 Teal, 36mm, $8 per metre, Mokuba, 416-504-5358.

$15.50 Silver **PAPER,** $5 per roll, Hallmark, hallmark.ca; Avery round multi-use **LABELS,** $5.50 per pack, Staples, staples.ca; satin 1150 **RIBBON** in 38 Green, 25mm, $5 per metre, Mokuba, 416-504-5358.

$27.50 Medium red **PAPER BAG,** $1.50, Michaels, michaels.com; teardrop **ORNAMENT,** $6 US per set of 8, silver ball **ORNAMENT,** $20 US per set of 60, Amazon, amazon.com.

$12 Cotton Shadowed Metallic Dot Christmas Magic **FABRIC,** $10 per metre, Fabricland, fabricland.ca; **BELLS,** $0.60 US each, Toho Shoji, tohoshoji-ny.com.

$11 Gold **PAPER,** $5 per roll, Hallmark, hallmark.ca; red **RIBBON,** $6 per roll, Michaels, michaels.com.

$20 Gund Plush Maxi **STUFFED BEAR** in Tan, Enesco, enescocanada.com.

$74 Twin wool Natural **BLANKET** in Brown Stripe, MacAusland's Woollen Mills, macauslandswoollenmills.com.

$40 Rens **SHEEPSKIN,** IKEA, ikea.ca.

$599 Reclaimed pine Emmerson **BENCH,** 58", West Elm, westelm.com.

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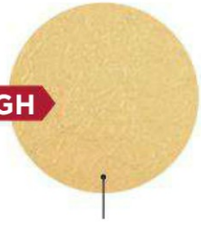
PATTERN PLAY

Simple solids, stars and polka dots take the stage this season for a country style that's not too cutesy and not at all convoluted. From intricate handmade Japanese paper to standard wrap on a roll, from fabric remnants to DIY patterns made from stickers, the **gift wrap** here offers charming options, regardless of your budget and resources.

HIGH



Handmade gold Momi **PAPER,** $13 per large sheet, The Paper Place, thepaperplace.ca.

Chiyogami 525 **PAPER** in Green, $16 per large sheet, The Paper Place, thepaperplace.ca.

Nani Iro cotton JG 1300 **FABRIC,** $25 per metre, The Workroom, theworkroom.ca.

Sara Morgan cotton Blue Hill 7630 **FABRIC,** $15 per metre, The Workroom, theworkroom.ca.

Gold **PAPER,** $5 per roll, Hallmark, hallmark.ca.

Cotton Shadowed Metallic Dot Christmas Magic **FABRIC,** $10 per metre, Fabricland, fabricland.ca.

Red **PAPER,** $5 per roll, Hallmark, hallmark.ca; Avery star **STICKERS,** $2.50 per pack, Staples, staples.ca.

Silver **PAPER,** $5 per roll, Hallmark, hallmark.ca; Avery round multi-use **LABELS,** $5.50 per pack, Staples, staples.ca.

LOW

HIGH $62

ORNAMENTS (clockwise from top left):

Cut-wood Heart, $7.50, White Owl, $12.50, Bark Tree, $4.50, Dove, $24.50 per set of 3, Leaves Ball, $7.50, Reindeer Wood Cutout, $5.50, Indigo, Chapters, indigo.ca.

WINTER WONDERLAND

Forest-dwelling creatures and wooden elements in a palette of browns, beiges, whites and creams, all illuminated by white twinkle lights like the stars in the night sky: Get inspired by these **Christmas tree ornaments** for the simple charm of a woodland look.

LOW $20

ORNAMENTS (clockwise from top left):

Natural Bird House, $5, white polyresin Owl, $2, wooden Cutout Tree, $2, 3-D Laser-cut Bird, $4, Birch Ball, $4, wooden Moose, $3, Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

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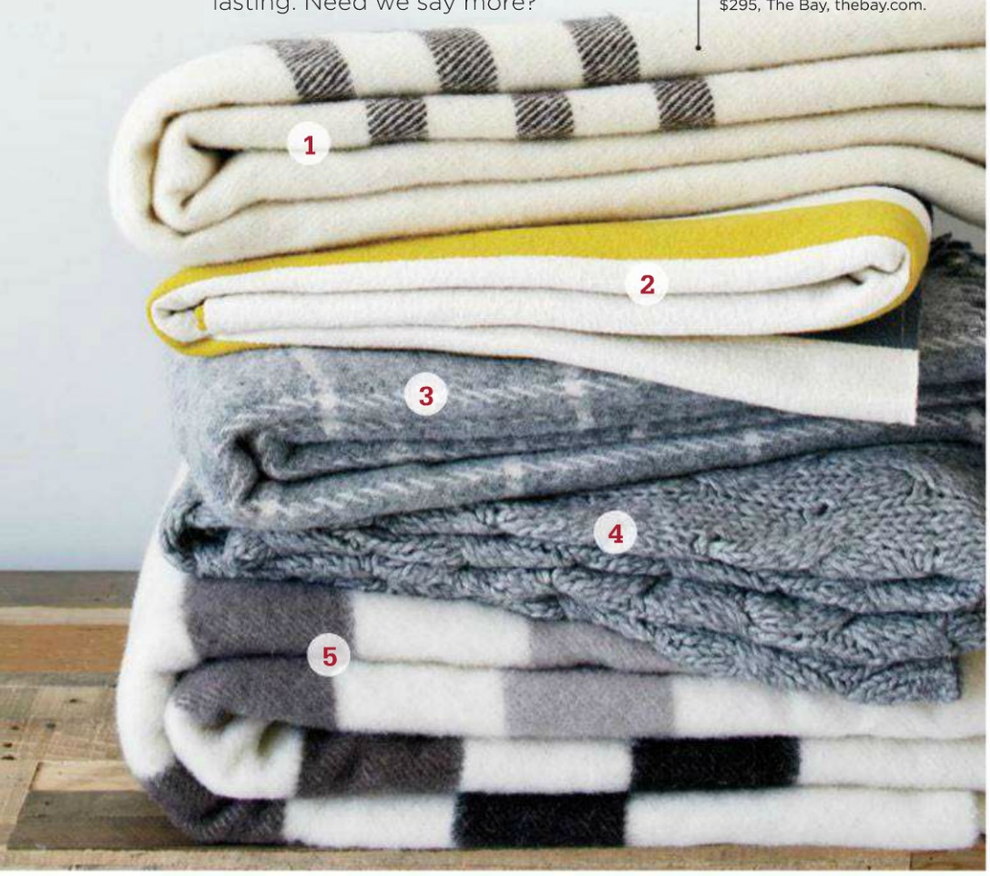
1 Twin wool Natural in Brown Stripe, $74, MacAusland's Woollen Mills, macauslandswoollenmills.com; **2** wool D-Constructed, $149, CB2, cb2.com; **3** lamb's wool Vinga in Light Grey, $119, Klippan, klippan.ca; **4** Italian wool and alpaca-knit in Fog Grey, $229 US, Restoration Hardware, restorationhardware.com; **5** twin wool Millennium Point in Grey, $295, The Bay, thebay.com.



artificial intelligence

Here's what to know when buying a quality faux tree:

- Know the measurements of the area you'd like the tree to fill, and buy accordingly. Allow at least 6" between the tip of your tree and the ceiling.
- Ensure the metal stand is sturdy, to keep the trimmed tree from tipping.
- When fully set up, you shouldn't see the centre pole of the untrimmed tree.
- Hinged branches are way easier than hooked-in ones.
- Look for a well-lit tree. The highest-density built-in light distribution is between 80 and 100 lights per foot.

high-low meter

Buy an **artificial tree** and say goodbye to cold-weather chopping (or shopping), hail-storm hauling, set-up struggling and shedded-needle sweeping. Faux has never felt so appealing!

highest ⟶ **lowest**

$350

Avantgarde Craft, 48" x 7½', sold with 400 lights, 155 pre-selected ornaments and a tree skirt, Korhani Home, korhani.com.

$280

Pre-lit Hard Needle Pine, 42" x 7', Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

$229

PC Pre-lit Mixed Cashmere, 45" x 7½', Loblaws, Real Canadian Superstore, superstore.ca.

$159

Slim in Two-Tone Green, 30" x 7½', Urban Barn, urbanbarn.com.

See more fun and easy gift-wrapping ideas at **STYLEATHOME.COM/GIFTWRAPPING.**

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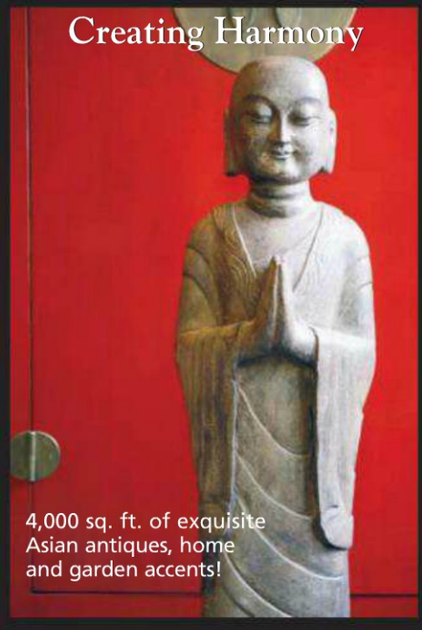

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ornaments
ORNAMENTALLY YOURS
Six ingenious ways to bedeck, bedazzle and bewitch traditional store-bought tree ornaments into one-of-a-kind family heirlooms.
»page 60

HOLIDAY CARDS
SPECIAL DELIVERY
This Christmas, send your love with a handmade card.
»page 68

paper houses
SMALL WONDERS
A perfectly crafted vintage-style miniature village made by hand sets the scene for a house-proud holiday season.
»page 76

GIFT WRAPPING
RIBBON, PAPER, SCISSORS
We've just upped the ante on holiday gift wrapping with these inspired ideas for perfectly presenting your heartfelt handiwork. »page 78

edible gifts
LOVE BITES
You're sure to find yourself under the mistletoe this year by giving these delicious edible gifts.
»page 86

ornamentally yours

Six ingenious ways to bedeck, bedazzle and bewitch traditional store-bought tree ornaments into one-of-a-kind family heirlooms.

PRODUCER STEPHANIE HUNG | **PHOTOGRAPHY** RYAN BROOK

ice ice baby

PREP TIME **5 MINUTES** | ❄

Give the impression that ornaments have been left out in the cold with a coating of glass beads for a delicately frosted effect.

MATERIALS

- coloured ornaments in various shades and sizes
- white craft glue
- paintbrush
- clear microbead glitter (we used Martha Stewart Crafts Luster Glass Microbeads in Clear)
- hairspray

INSTRUCTIONS

1 Remove the cap from the ornament.

2 Brush watered-down craft glue over the entire ornament.

3 Cover with an even coat of glitter. Once dry, gently shake off the excess glitter.

4 To seal the glitter, give the ornament a light coat of hairspray.

5 Place the cap back on the ornament.

PHOTOGRAPHY: RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA

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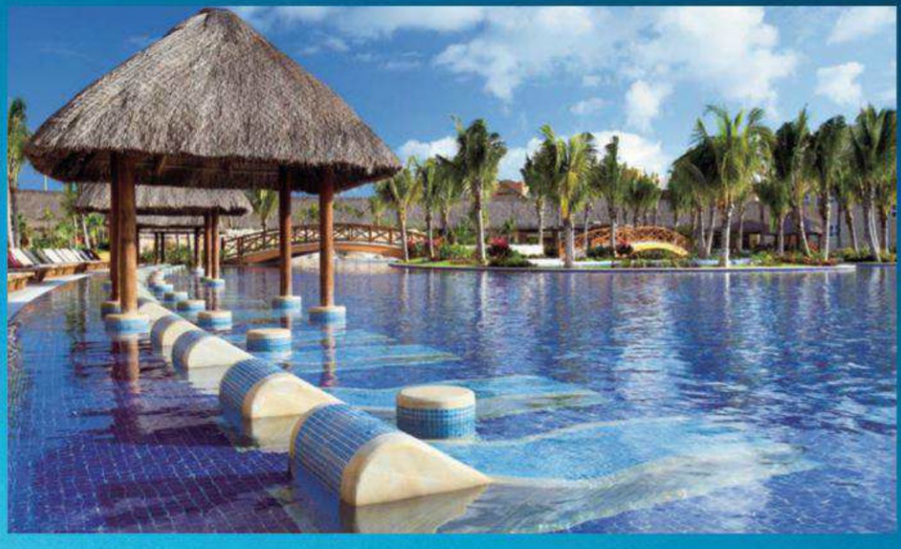

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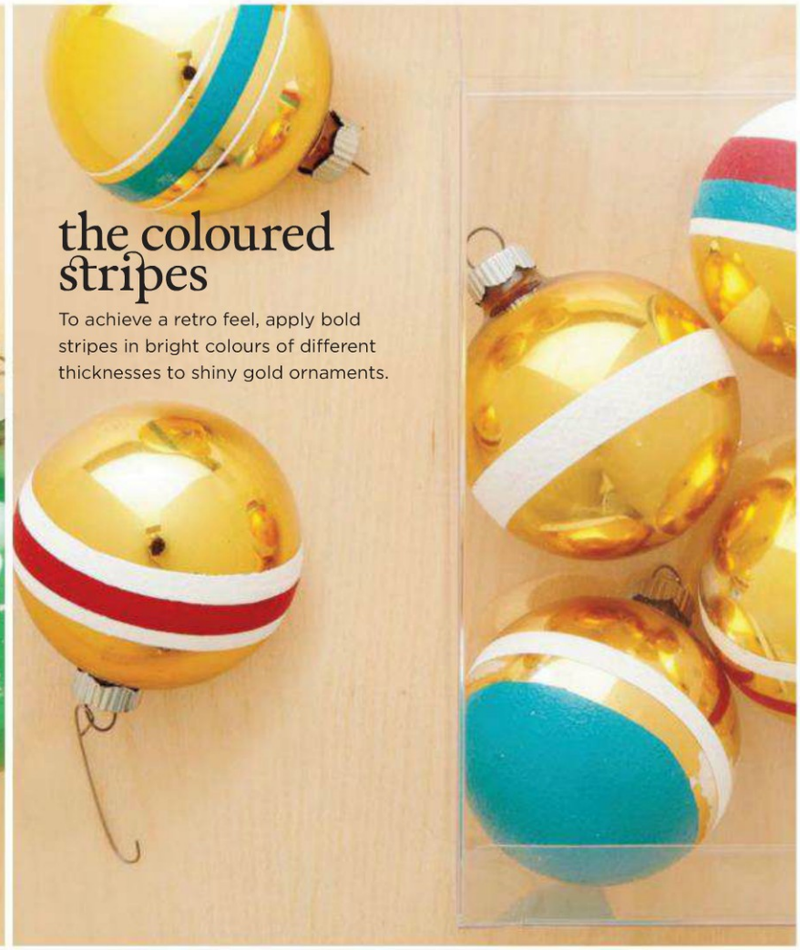
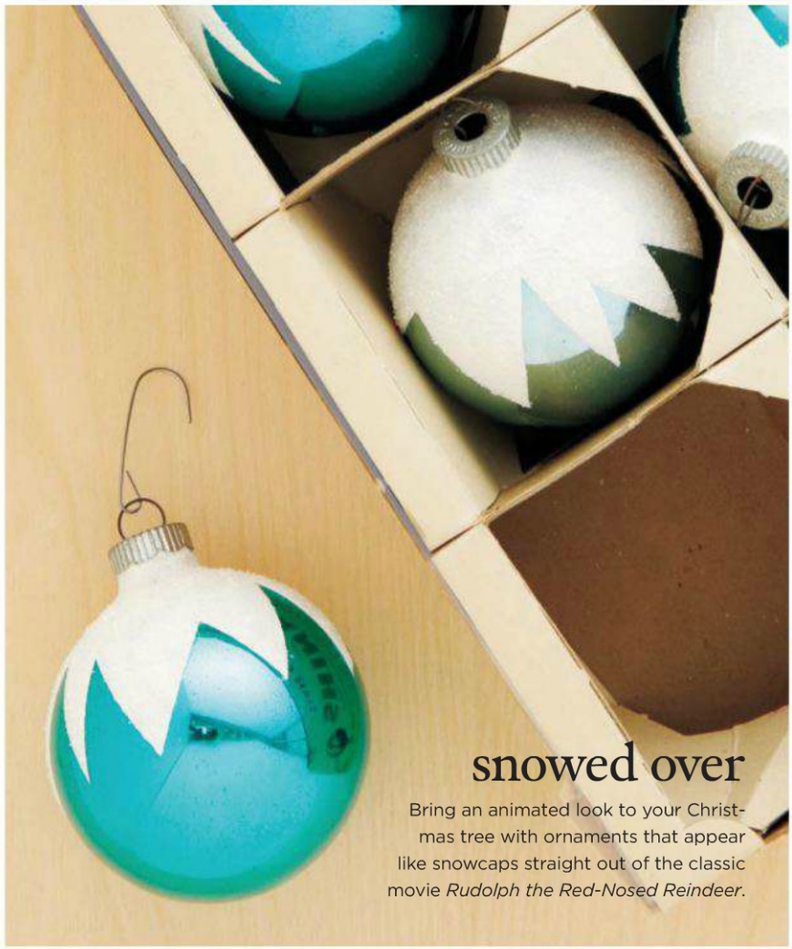
quick on the draw

Whether adorned with iconic festive images or personalized with names, ornaments made with simple freehand drawings offer character and charm.

the coloured stripes

To achieve a retro feel, apply bold stripes in bright colours of different thicknesses to shiny gold ornaments.



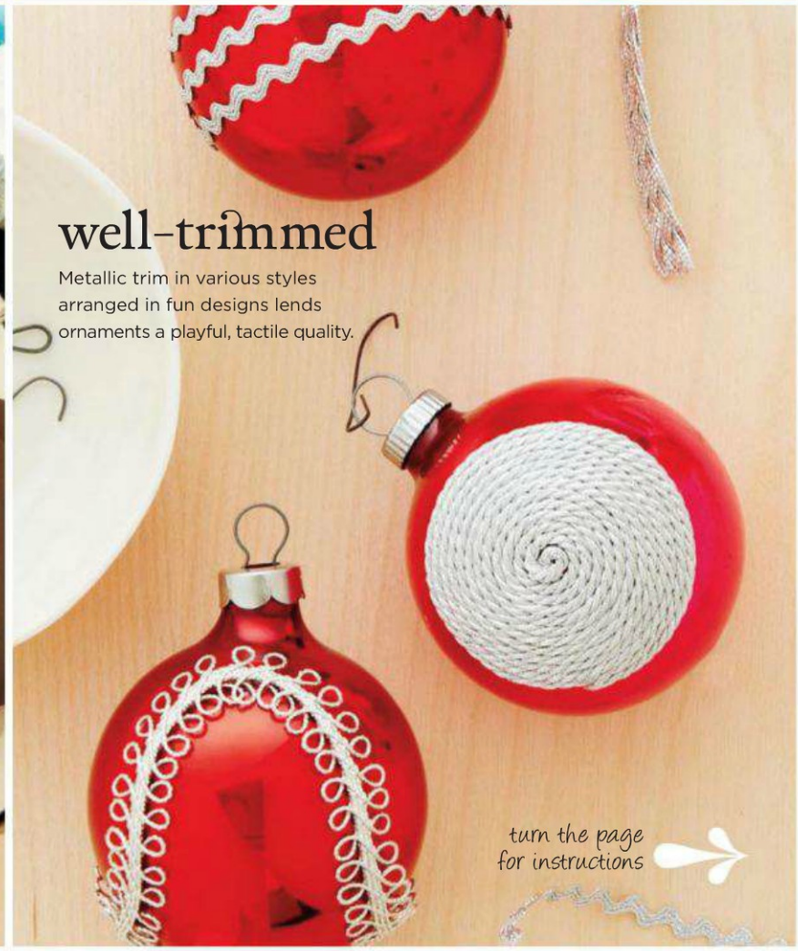


snowed over

Bring an animated look to your Christmas tree with ornaments that appear like snowcaps straight out of the classic movie *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*.

well-trimmed

Metallic trim in various styles arranged in fun designs lends ornaments a playful, tactile quality.



turn the page for instructions

the coloured stripes

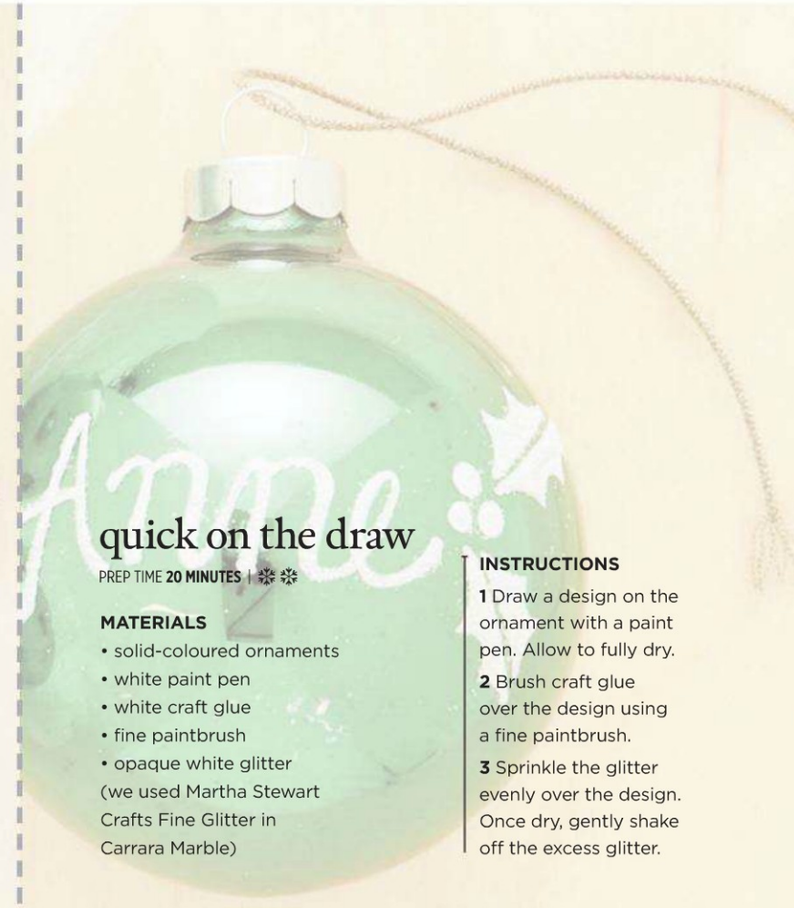
PREP TIME **20 MINUTES** | ❄❄

MATERIALS
- solid gold ornaments
- painter's tape
- acrylic paint
- paintbrush

INSTRUCTIONS

1 Mask off a stripe on the ornament with painter's tape. Smooth out any wrinkles or bubbles.

2 Brush paint onto the ornament. Remove the tape while the paint is still wet. Let dry completely before masking off another stripe.



quick on the draw

PREP TIME **20 MINUTES** | ❄❄

MATERIALS
- solid-coloured ornaments
- white paint pen
- white craft glue
- fine paintbrush
- opaque white glitter (we used Martha Stewart Crafts Fine Glitter in Carrara Marble)

INSTRUCTIONS

1 Draw a design on the ornament with a paint pen. Allow to fully dry.

2 Brush craft glue over the design using a fine paintbrush.

3 Sprinkle the glitter evenly over the design. Once dry, gently shake off the excess glitter.

well-trimmed

PREP TIME **10 MINUTES** | ❄

MATERIALS
- solid-coloured ornaments
- metallic trim of various styles
- scissors
- white craft glue

INSTRUCTIONS

1 Decide on a design and cut the trim to the appropriate length.

2 Add a few dabs of glue to the ornament and gently hold the trim in place for a few seconds as you progress through the design.

snowed over

PREP TIME **20 MINUTES** | ❄❄

MATERIALS
- solid-coloured ornaments
- painter's tape
- white acrylic paint
- paintbrush
- white craft glue
- clear glass glitter (we used Wendy Addison Diamond Dust)

INSTRUCTIONS

1 Remove the cap from the ornament.

2 Mask off the snowcap design on the ornament with painter's tape.

3 Paint the snowcap design with white paint. Remove the tape while the paint is still wet. Allow to fully dry.

4 Brush craft glue over the snowcap and cover with an even coat of glitter. Once dry, shake off the excess glitter.

5 Place the cap back on the ornament.

Merry Pringles!
Pringles
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silver lining

PREP TIME **10 MINUTES** |

Recreate the coveted look of vintage mercury glass with silver, sparkle and shine.

MATERIALS

- clear glass ornaments
- dark grey acrylic paint
- paintbrush
- spray bottle filled with water
- Krylon Looking Glass Mirror-Like spray paint

INSTRUCTIONS

1 Remove the cap from the ornament.

2 Brush a coat of dark grey acrylic paint over the entire ornament. Allow to fully dry.

3 Lightly spray water inside the ornament. Tap out the excess. Spray several coats of looking-glass spray paint inside the ornament, allowing the paint to dry completely between coats. Set the ornament upside down to dry so the paint doesn't pool in the bottom.

4 Place the cap back on the ornament.

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Mr. Clean

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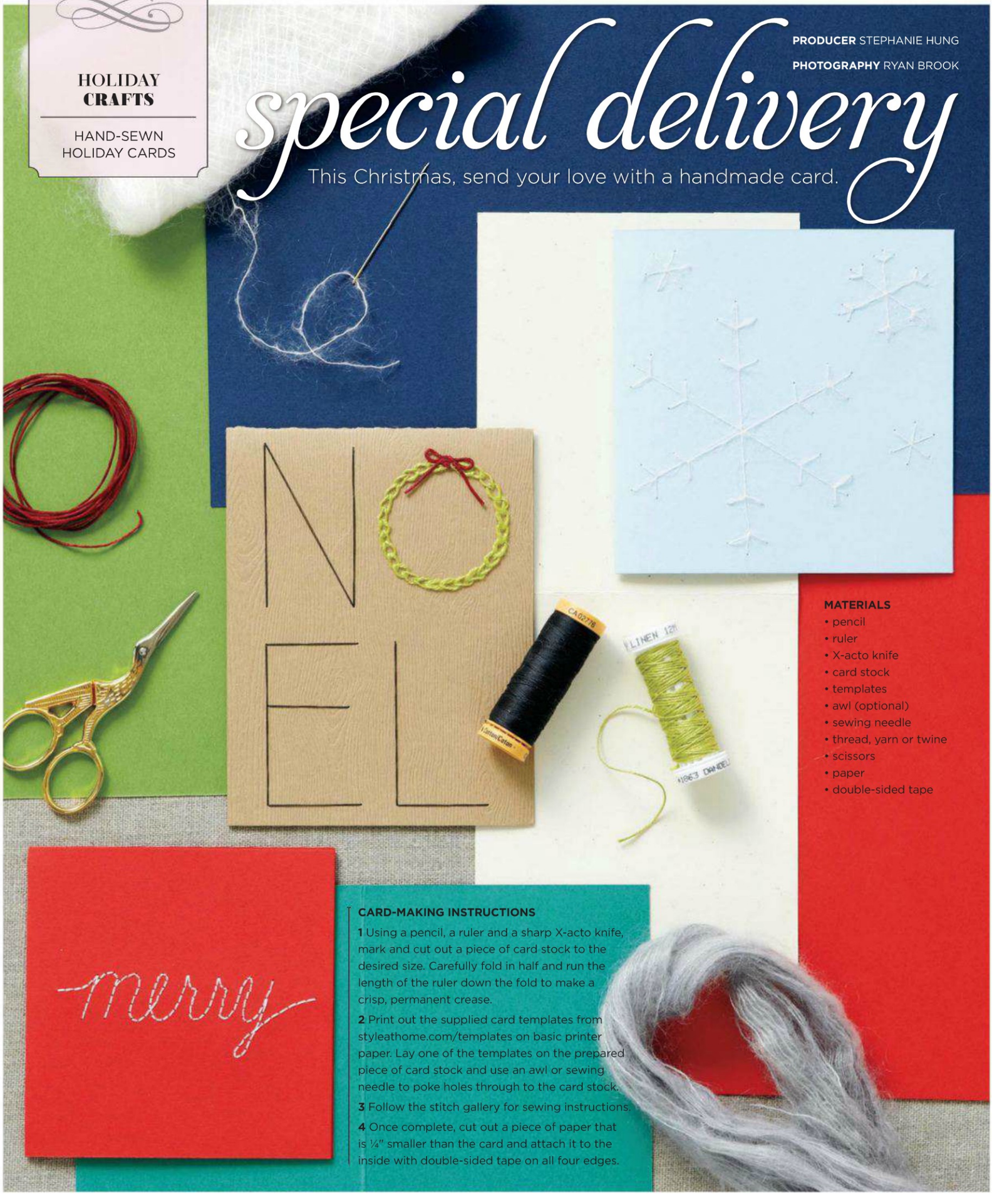
*Kills influenza A2. Always read and follow the label for disinfecting instructions.

special delivery

PRODUCER STEPHANIE HUNG
PHOTOGRAPHY RYAN BROOK

This Christmas, send your love with a handmade card.



MATERIALS

- pencil
- ruler
- X-acto knife
- card stock
- templates
- awl (optional)
- sewing needle
- thread, yarn or twine
- scissors
- paper
- double-sided tape

CARD-MAKING INSTRUCTIONS

1 Using a pencil, a ruler and a sharp X-acto knife, mark and cut out a piece of card stock to the desired size. Carefully fold in half and run the length of the ruler down the fold to make a crisp, permanent crease.

2 Print out the supplied card templates from styleathome.com/templates on basic printer paper. Lay one of the templates on the prepared piece of card stock and use an awl or sewing needle to poke holes through to the card stock.

3 Follow the stitch gallery for sewing instructions.

4 Once complete, cut out a piece of paper that is ¼" smaller than the card and attach it to the inside with double-sided tape on all four edges.

PHOTOGRAPHY: RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA

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extra hold
4

oh, christmas tree
STITCH TIME 20 MINUTES | ❄ | BACKSTITCH, THREE-WAY CROSS-STITCH
season's greetings
STITCH TIME 25 MINUTES | ❄❄ | BACKSTITCH, CHAIN STITCH
L. Adler
55 Warren Street
Toronto, ON M5V 3R5

stitch gallery

Backstitch: Bring the thread up through A and down through B, come up through C and back down B, then come up through D and back down C.

Three-way cross-stitch: Bring the thread up through A and down through B, then up through C and down through D and then up through E and down through F.

Chain stitch: Bring the thread up through A and then back down A, leaving a small loop of thread. Come up through B and thread through the A loop, and then back down B, leaving another loop. Come up through C, thread through the B loop, and then back down C, leaving another loop.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY > EASY ❄ INTERMEDIATE ❄❄ ADVANCED ❄❄❄

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stitch gallery

Straight stitch: Bring the thread up through one point and down through another. This creates a single stitch.

Backstitch: Bring the thread up through A and down through B, come up through C and back down B, then come up through D and back down C.

Diagonal stitch: Bring the thread up through A and back down through B, come up through C and back down through D, come up through E and back down through F.

Cross-stitch: Bring the thread up through A and down through B, then up through C and down through D. This makes a single cross.

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silent night

STITCH TIME **15 MINUTES** | ❄ | STRAIGHT STITCH

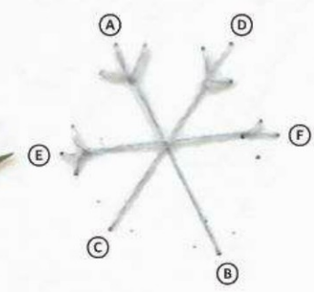
snow day

STITCH TIME **25 MINUTES** | ❄❄ | STRAIGHT STITCH, THREE-WAY CROSS-STITCH

stitch gallery

Straight stitch: Bring the thread up through one point and down through another. This creates a single stitch.

Three-way cross-stitch: Bring the thread up through A and down through B, then up through C and down through D and then up through E and down through F. Sew the radial arms using a straight stitch.



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small wonders

A perfectly crafted vintage-style miniature village made by hand sets the scene for a house-proud holiday season.

PRODUCER STEPHANIE HUNG | **PHOTOGRAPHY** RYAN BROOK

PHOTOGRAPHY: RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA; MANTEL: CHÂTELET, CHATELETHOME.COM

house made

PREP TIME **45 MINUTES** | ❄❄❄

MATERIALS

- acrylic paint
- paintbrush
- mini cereal boxes
- pencil
- ruler
- X-acto knife
- white craft glue
- fine crystal glitter
- vellum paper
- double-sided tape
- glitter card stock or scrapbooking paper

INSTRUCTIONS

1 Paint a mini cereal box and let dry.

2 Using a pencil and a ruler, mark the roofline at the desired angle, holes for the windows and slits for the door awning on the box.

3 Carefully cut them all out using an X-acto knife, making sure not to apply too much pressure on the box.

4 Brush the entire box with craft glue and sprinkle with an even coat of fine glitter. Once dry, delicately shake off the excess glitter.

5 Cut out pieces of vellum slightly larger than the window holes using an X-acto knife and tape them to the inside of the box with double-sided tape.

6 Measure the top of the box and mark the measurements of the roof on the back of the glitter paper, ensuring that it's ½" larger on all sides. Do the same for the window frames, allowing for a slight overlap.

7 Measure the slits of the door awning and mark the exact length and the width (about ½") on the back of the glitter paper. Do the same for the door and shutters (optional), making them proportional to the size of the box.

8 Cut out all the pieces using an X-acto knife and glue to the house.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY > EASY❄ INTERMEDIATE❄❄ ADVANCED❄❄❄

ribbon, paper, scissors

We've just upped the ante on holiday gift wrapping with these inspired ideas for perfectly presenting your heartfelt handiwork.

PRODUCER TARA BALLANTYNE | **TEXT** SUZANNE MOUTIS | **PHOTOGRAPHY** ASHLEY CAPP

blithe spirits

Indulge in a spate of whimsy this season by choosing a colour palette that's out of the holiday ordinary. This combination of white and bubble-gum pink brings new life to the tried-and-true basics we're – maybe – too used to seeing. And skilfully employing elastic bands, washi tape and even pompoms creates a fun, fresh take on standard bows and trims.

A handmade shaggy pompom cleverly replaces the more formal bow as a gift topper.
Would you guess this is shiny pink paper that we've used inside out? The matte finish is the perfect backdrop for a washi-tape ribbon.

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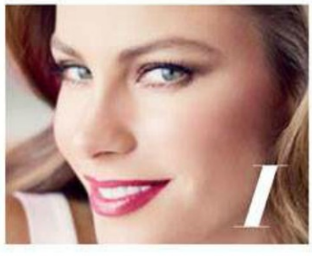

SimplyAgeless

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easy breezy beautiful COVERGIRL

making merry

A cheery colour scheme uses sky blue to temper the ubiquitous holiday red. The shades play off each other to create a happy holiday palette, while the traditional use of bows and ribbons is perfectly at home in the mix.

Have fun wrapping ribbon in unique ways to create decorative interest on your gifts.
Add a vintage button or two instead of a bow for an inventive take on gift toppers.

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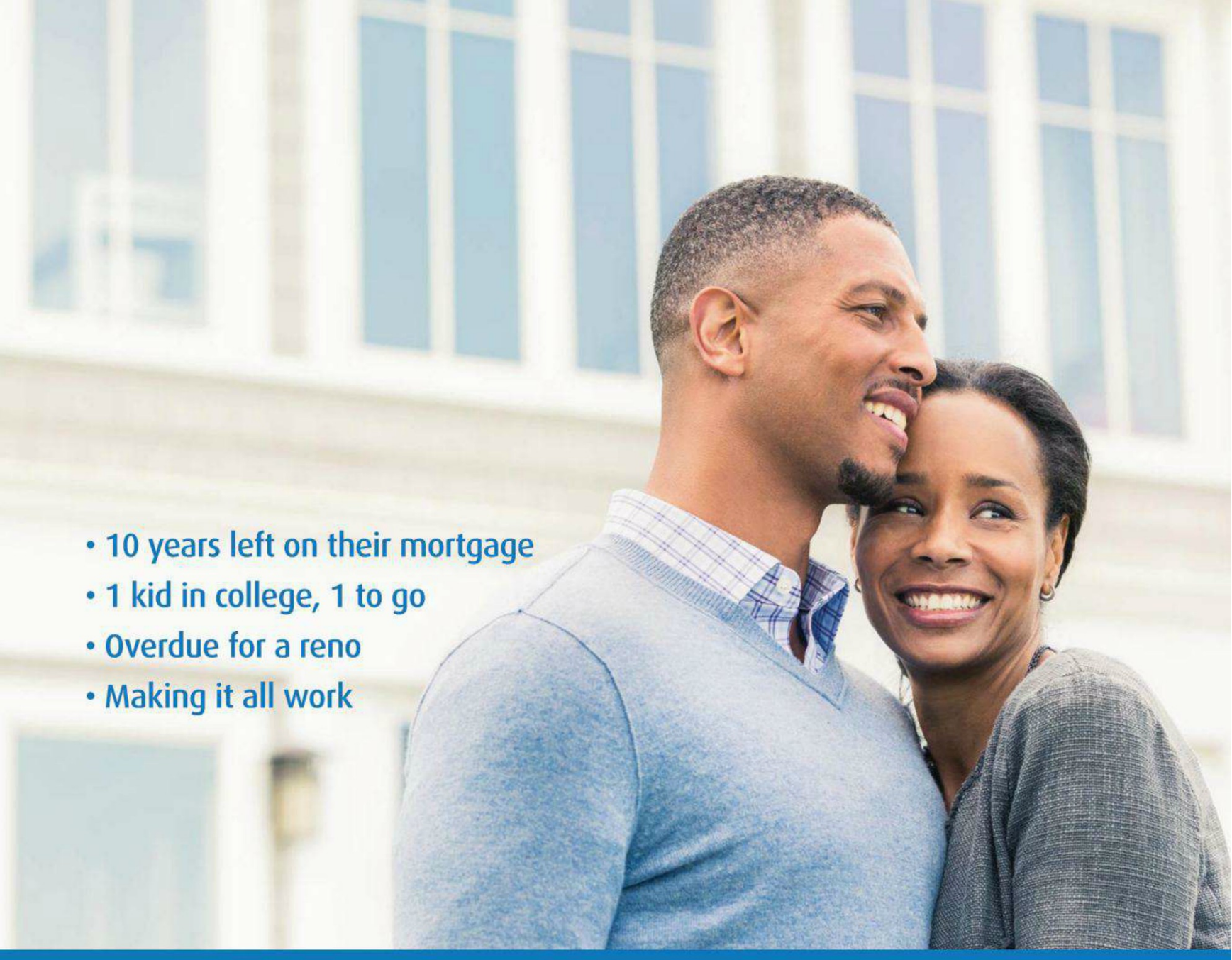
Call us crazy, but at Style at Home we think that the packaging should be just as fun as the gift itself.

bright impressions

Green never gets old during the holidays, especially when it comes in all kinds of lovely variations of shade and texture. These gifts offer a tone-on-tone look by layering several types of ribbon and contrasting the colours with solid green and crisp white wrapping paper for dimension.



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- 1 kid in college, 1 to go
- Overdue for a reno
- Making it all work

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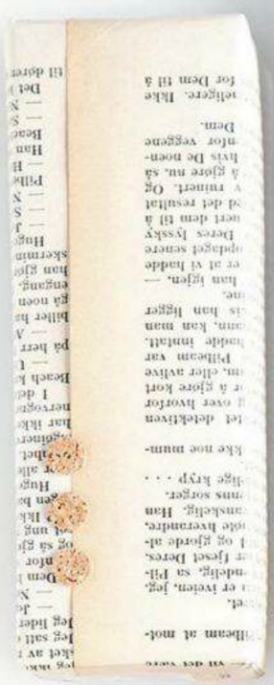

Pages from an old book create personalized wrap.

Vintage Scrabble pieces spell Good Yule.

paper favours

The natural look has never appeared as good as on these subtle, sophisticated gifts. Whether it's brown-paper packages tied up with string or gift wrap crafted from a page or two of a vintage book, understated elegance is the name of the game. Easily embellished with tiny trinkets and trims, even Santa might have a hard time giving these gifts away.

Wooden stars from a craft store light up plain white paper.

Check out more stunning, colourful gift-wrapping ideas that break the red and green tradition at **STYLEATHOME.COM/COLOURFULWRAPPING.**

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love bites

If there's any truth to the saying that the way to someone's heart is through their stomach, then you're sure to find yourself under the mistletoe this year by giving one of these delicious, delightful edible gifts.

PRODUCER TARA BALLANTYNE | **PHOTOGRAPHY** TRINE THORSEN

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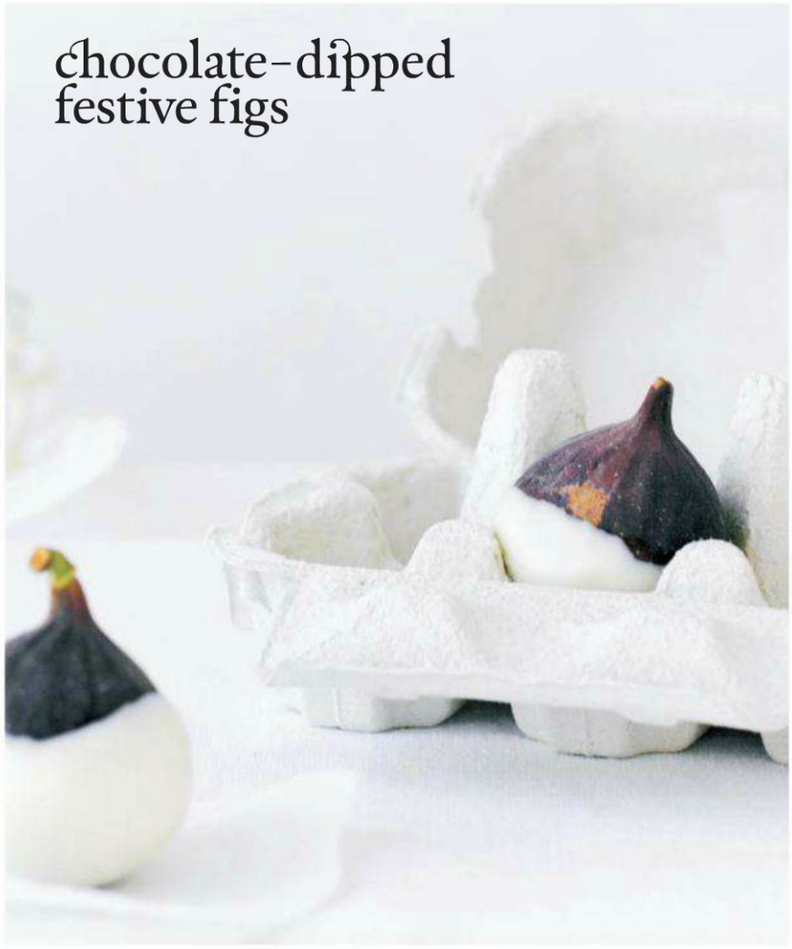
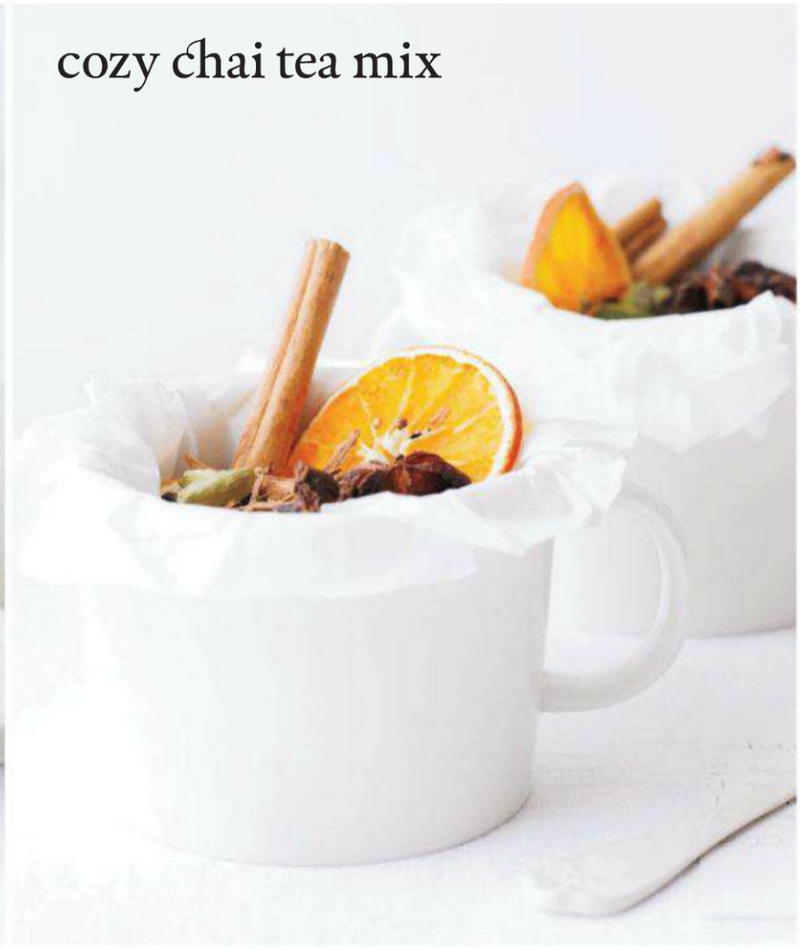
chocolate-dipped festive figs



cozy chai tea mix



homemade holiday sugar cookies

merry muesli

turn the page for recipes

cozy chai tea mix

PREP TIME **30 MINUTES** | MAKES **6 SERVINGS** | ❄❄

- ½ orange
- ¼ cup green cardamom pods
- 1 tbsp whole cloves
- 1 tbsp black peppercorns
- 1 tbsp coriander seeds
- 2 tbsp whole star anise
- 1 tbsp fennel seeds
- 3 tbsp chopped candied ginger
- ¼ cup loose Darjeeling tea
- 6 cinnamon sticks

PREHEAT THE OVEN to 200°F.

SLICE THE ORANGE into ⅛" thick rounds and place on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.

BAKE, turning occasionally, until dry, about 2 to 3 hours. Let cool.

COMBINE THE ORANGE SLICES with the remaining ingredients (except the cinnamon sticks) in a medium-sized bowl.

PLACE 2 HEAPING TABLESPOONS of the mixture into mugs lined with parchment paper, add one cinnamon stick to each and wrap with Cellophane for giving.

chocolate-dipped festive figs

PREP TIME **30 MINUTES** | MAKES **6 FIGS** | ❄

- 8 oz good-quality white chocolate chunks
- 6 ripe black Mission figs

PLACE THE CHOCOLATE in a heatproof glass bowl or in the top of a double boiler over a pot of simmering water. Heat the chocolate until it's fully melted and smooth, stirring occasionally, being careful that it doesn't burn.

CAREFULLY DIP two-thirds of each fig into the melted chocolate and place on a piece of parchment paper until the chocolate has cooled and hardened.

ARRANGE THE CHOCOLATE-DIPPED FIGS in a small egg carton and refrigerate until ready to give.

merry muesli

PREP TIME **30 MINUTES** | MAKES **6 CUPS** | ❄

- 1¼ cups each: rye, oat and spelt flakes
- ½ cup raw, sliced unsalted almonds
- ½ cup coarsely chopped walnuts
- ½ cup unsalted sunflower seeds
- ¼ cup sesame seeds
- ¼ cup unsalted pumpkin seeds
- ½ cup raw sugar
- Pinch sea salt
- ½ tsp cinnamon
- ¼ cup olive oil
- ½ vanilla bean, seeds scraped out
- ¼ cup honey
- ½ cup raisins
- ½ cup dried cranberries

PREHEAT THE OVEN to 300°F.

IN A LARGE BOWL, combine the rye, oat and spelt flakes through to cinnamon. Set aside.

MEANWHILE, place the oil, vanilla bean seeds and honey in a small saucepan over medium-low heat. Heat gently, stirring constantly, until the honey is dissolved.

POUR THE LIQUID COATING over the dry ingredients, stirring to coat.

SPREAD THE MIXTURE onto a large parchment paper-lined baking sheet.

BAKE for 30 minutes, stirring the ingredients frequently to ensure that the granola bakes evenly.

REMOVE THE GRANOLA from the oven and sprinkle with the raisins and cranberries. Stir to mix and let cool completely before packaging and giving.

homemade holiday sugar cookies

PREP TIME **30 MINUTES** | MAKES **24 COOKIES** | ❄❄

- 2½ cups all-purpose flour
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- ¾ cup unsalted butter, softened
- 2 eggs
- 2 tbsp lime juice

PREHEAT THE OVEN to 325°F.

IN A LARGE BOWL, sift together the flour, salt and baking powder.

IN A SEPARATE BOWL, cream together the sugar and butter with an electric mixer. Beat in the eggs one at a time; beat in the lime juice. Add the flour mixture and mix on low speed until combined. Cover the dough and chill for 30 minutes.

ROLL OUT THE DOUGH on a floured surface and cut into 2" circles with a cookie cutter; stamp each with a cookie stamp and transfer to a parchment paper-lined baking sheet. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes or until the edges just begin to brown. Cool on a wire rack before packaging and giving.

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TEXT IRIS BENAROIA
PHOTOGRAPHY DONNA GRIFFITH
STYLING ANN MARIE FAVOT

better off RED

Black, white and red all over - it's the perfect colour combination to meet this family of five's modern aesthetic and stress-free decorating needs.

BELOW Mostly decorated with pretty plastic ornaments, the Christmas tree can handle running children bumping into it, notes homeowner Andrea Hunt.

DESIGN, Croma Design, cromadesign.com; **CONTRACTING,** Armstrong Contracting.

RIGHT Simple flourishes: grey stockings, a ruby-red wreath, fresh-cut amaryllis and a boxwood garland strike a quaint Christmas scene.

SOFAS, Shelter Furniture; **SWIVEL CHAIR,** Structube; **DRAPERY,** Union Lighting and Furnishings; **COFFEE TABLE,** Kiosk Design; **RUG,** W Studio; red **TOSS CUSHIONS,** Fluf; **MIRROR,** G.H. Johnson's Trading Co.; **WREATH,** Crate and Barrel; grey **STOCKINGS,** Loblaws, Real Canadian Superstore.

RIGHT, BOTTOM Andrea loves to bake but admits that this gingerbread house is store-bought. "It would look like a shed if I made it," she says.

KITCHEN, Dekla; **ISLAND COUNTERTOP,** Caesarstone; **GINGERBREAD HOUSE,** All the Best; **STOOL,** Elte; **ARTWORK** by Susan Fothergill, Art Interiors.

EASY IDEA

Hang a faux red wreath with a thick satin ribbon for a modern take on a traditional touch.

Talk about chutzpah. Andrea Hunt must buy Windex in bulk. The marketing professional and her husband, who works in healthcare, live in a slick, art-filled white house full of windows with three boys under the age of eight. Yet, not only is the home warm and welcoming during Christmas – thanks to dark, Jacobean-stained floors and friendly hits of red – it's also not a hands-off affair.

"With three boys, how can it be?" says Andrea, who adds that the crisp palette and streamlined design scheme is great for a family. "Keeping it minimal helps maintain calmness, and open sightlines mean I can keep an eye on the boys. Living in colour feels chaotic."

This explains Andrea's penchant for restrained holiday decorating: "I like just enough to signal festive," she says, "but still feel minimal and clean."

When the couple bought the 4,000-square-foot home in a midtown Toronto neighbourhood in early 2011, it was a dowdy duplex, with a pair of elderly sisters living in the two identical apartments. There were walls galore – some strangely blocked 11 beautiful windows – and three-inch-thick unsightly blue shag carpeting extended right into the bathrooms. "Every surface was also covered with wallpaper as one continuous candy cane-coloured visual," says Andrea.

Modernizing the house entailed fixing the awkward layout by removing some walls and, of course, removing that carpet to reveal the hardwood below. The homeowners worked with principal designers Amy Kent and Ryan Martin of Croma Design, as well as Scott Armstrong of Armstrong Contracting, to guide them through the three-month renovation.

EASY IDEA

Pretty ornaments can serve as festive place cards for a holiday feast.

EASY IDEA

A bowl of silver-painted pine cones provides a hint of sparkle and is an easy craft for the kids.

"It's a beautiful historic home built in the '30s," says Ryan. "The Hunts wanted to respect that, so we left the exterior as is." Adds Andrea: "And for the interior, a lot of the changes we made were cosmetic." (Thankfully, construction went smoothly, as she was eight months pregnant at the time, with the move-in scheduled a week before Christmas.)

Today, in a somewhat unintentional tribute to that eye-popping wallpaper, the hue does appear, albeit sparingly. "Red is iconic to the holidays – it's a happy colour that especially works in an all-white scheme," says Andrea. "You can make a lot of impact with a little red." And during the action-packed holidays, when her boys are at their most boisterous (whose kids aren't, really?), this busy mom appreciates all the decorating shortcuts she can get.

OPPOSITE A controlled colour palette presents a dynamic picture in the dining room. Suiting the home's streamlined look, the holiday tabletop is elegant and understated, achieved through glass candle holders and crystal wineglasses and restrained punches of red in the amaryllis, table runner and small accessories.

DINING TABLE, Minotti; **WINEGLASSES,** William Ashley; **DINING CHAIRS,** IKEA; **LIGHT FIXTURE,** Union Lighting and Furnishings.

ABOVE Sparkly silver pine cones and a branch of bright red holly berries transform the living room coffee table into a festive vignette in a jiffy.

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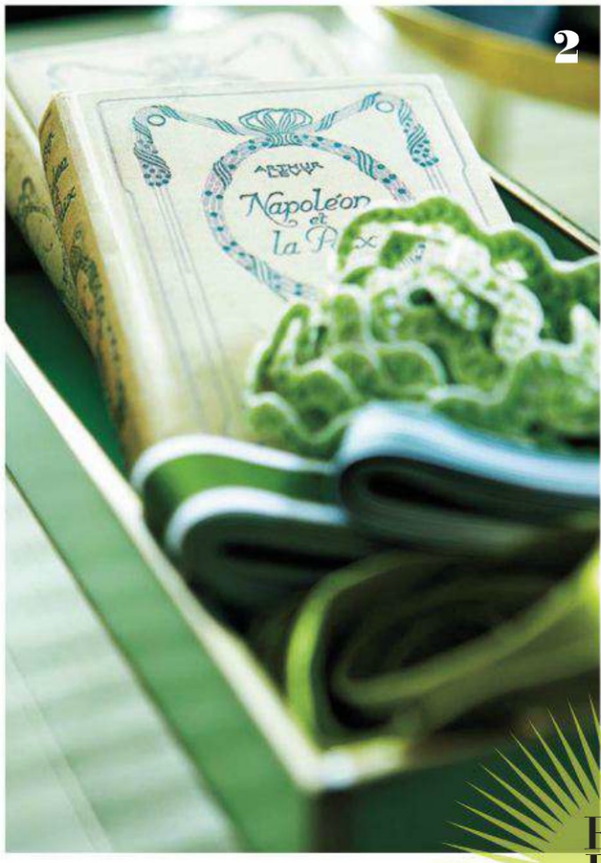
PRODUCER NICOLA MARC | **TEXT** BETHANY LYTTLE | **PHOTOGRAPHY** MONIC RICHARD

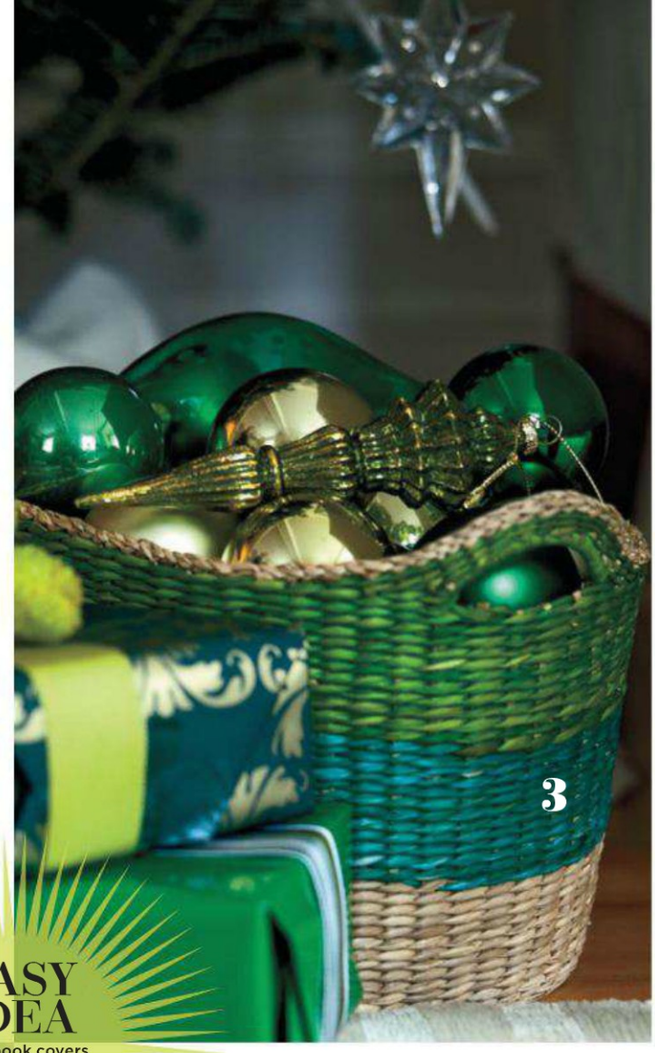
GREEN WITH envy

When it comes to holiday decorating, green often serves as the backdrop. This season, we've brought it front and centre with layer upon layer of this verdant hue. Take a look at these 11 ways to go green and get inspired.

1 mix modern and classic

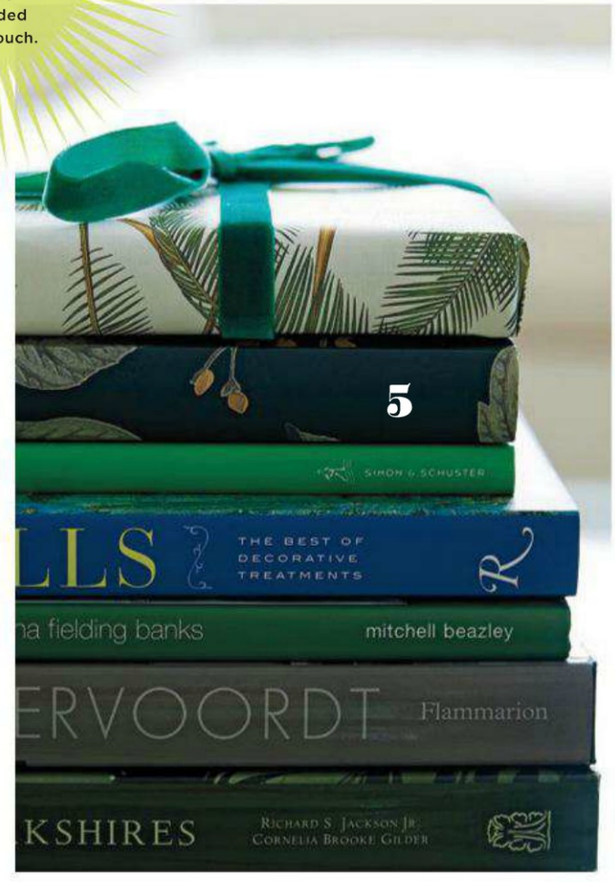
Combine contemporary dishes with holiday classics like tiny toys or ornaments. A small bowl with its modern bright pattern, for example, stands in as festive decor when topped with a traditional Christmas cracker. Set several of these combinations on a table – one at each place setting – or use just one as a single display.





EASY IDEA

Wrap book covers in festive papers for an added seasonal touch.



2. use what you have

Create a casual vignette using old books layered with ribbon and trimmings for festive appeal. While they look great on display, vintage books also make thoughtful gifts for your favourite bibliophile. This pair of antique novels is charmed by lengths of green rickrack.

3. group baubles

Not just for hanging on boughs, Christmas baubles look pretty when displayed in a bowl or, as shown here, in a basket. To get a rough-luxe look, place ornaments of variant shades of green in a wicker basket. They can also be attached to presents for a traditional yet slightly unexpected gift topper.

BASKET, Au Printemps, auprintemps.ca.

4. stimulate the senses

Aside from the traditional decorated Christmas tree, incorporate potted plants, such as jade, fig or orange trees, and flower arrangements to add an unexpected hit of fresh foliage. Create bouquets with scented evergreen boughs and fragrant herbs like thyme and rosemary to infuse your home with a delightful aroma.

VASE, FLOWERS, Fauchois Fleurs, fauchoisfleurs.com.

5. top it off

Scattering presents wrapped in holiday papers in every room throughout your home for a touch of Christmas cheer is an easy way to decorate. Here, a small wrapped gift sits on a stack of books. The wintry pine bough design, as well as the emerald-green velvet ribbon, take the display from everyday to holiday.

RIBBON, Masterstroke Canada, masterstrokecanada.com; **GIFT WRAP,** Essence du Papier, essencedupapier.com.

Present green in several shades and vary textures for the most impressive impact. To keep the look festive, not fussy, draw on holiday decorations and home goods alike.

6 layer variant shades

Combine texture and pattern by layering papers, textiles, ornaments and foliage to introduce several tones of green into a single room. Wrap presents in different hues and contrasting ribbon. Invite comfort with velvet toss cushions and throws on your sofa or chairs. Finish off the look with potted plants and fresh arrangements to add natural warmth to the space.

TOSS CUSHIONS, TRAYS, THROWS, Celadon, celadoncollection.com; **TOTE BAG,** Au Printemps, auprintemps.ca.

DESIGN, HEIDI SMITH, HEIDISMITHDESIGN.COM

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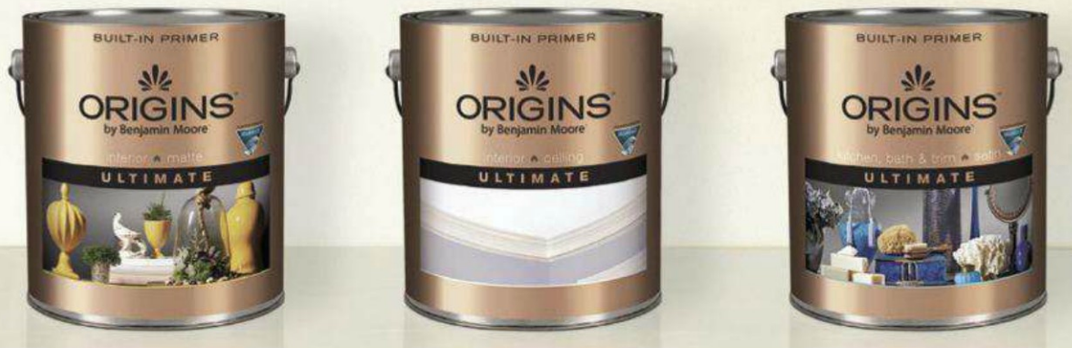

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7. take inspiration from nature

If you're looking for complementary colour inspiration for your green scheme, think in terms of nature – stone, earth and sky hues work best. The greens, from citrine to deep forest, will pop when presented on a neutral backdrop.

CANDLES, PartyLite, partylite.ca; green vintage **JARS, DINING CHAIRS,** vintage monogrammed **NAPKINS,** antique transferware **PLATE,** antique aluminum **COFFEE POT,** vintage **MILK JUG, BREAD BASKET, BUTTER DISH,** L'Atelier du Presbytère, atelierdupresbytere.com; **TABLECLOTH,** grey and white **TEA TOWELS,** Qui Dort Dîne, quidortdine.ca; green **BOWLS,** green **GLASSES, PLATES, KNIVES, SUGAR BOWL,** Beige, beigestyle.com; **TEAPOT, CUTTING BOARD,** Les Touilleurs, lestouilleurs.com; **CUTLERY, GLASSES,** Comme la vie avec un accent, commelavie.com.

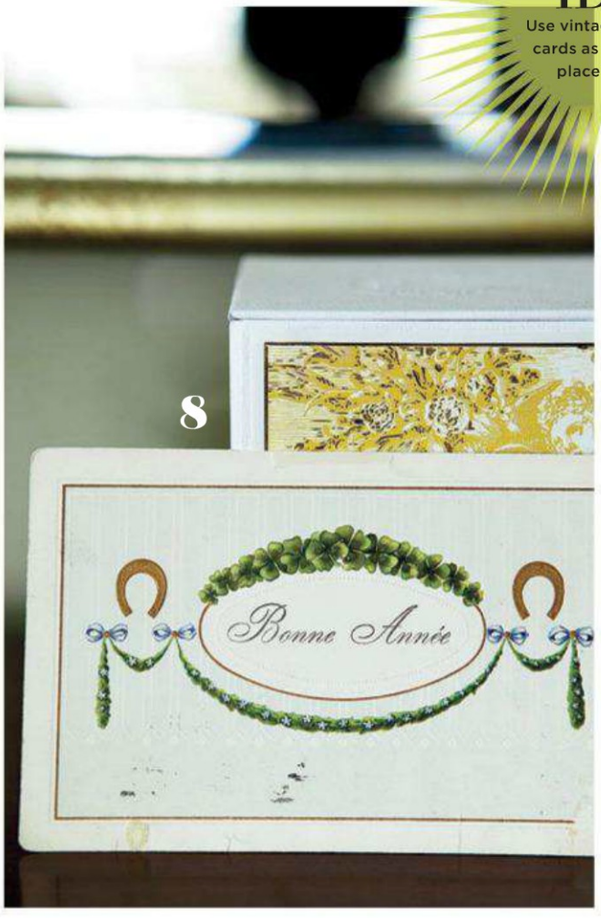
7

EASY IDEA

Use vintage Christmas cards as part of your place settings.

8. go antique hunting

Add charm to your decor with vintage holiday cards. If you don't have any old Christmas cards lying around at home, they can be found, often inexpensively, in antiques shops, paper stores and online auctions.



8

9. deck the chairs

Decorate your dining chairs with bundled branches of fresh evergreens, such as fir, cedar or pine. Attach to the chair's arm with a piece of silk ribbon and adorn with an antique silver ornament. The acorn-shaped bauble seen here is a sweet little nod to nature – fitting for a green-themed holiday.

9

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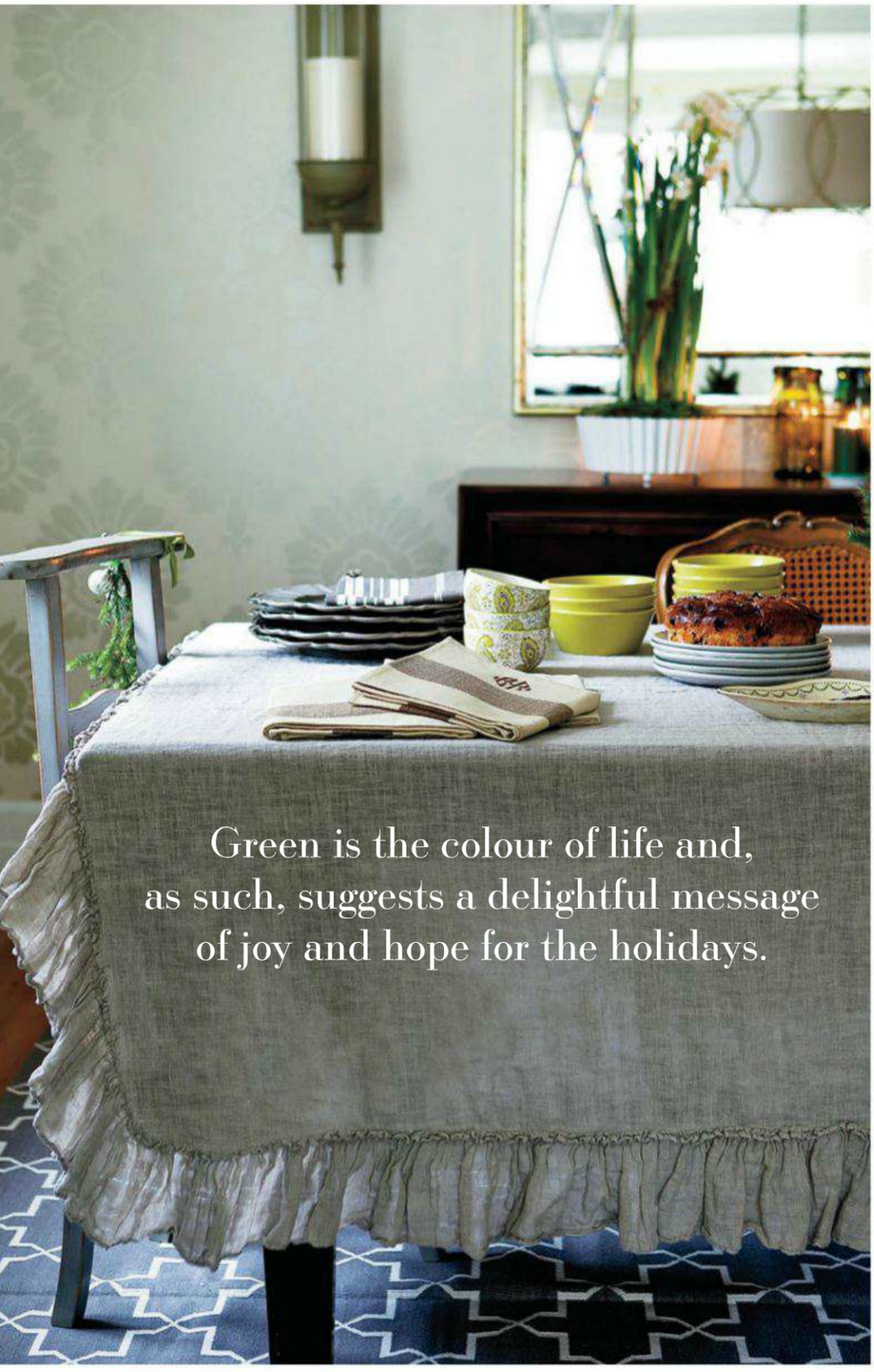

Green is the colour of life and, as such, suggests a delightful message of joy and hope for the holidays.

10. find your green thumb

Tall, statuesque paperwhites make a lovely statement during the holidays. Buy them at a local market and replant in a pretty pot or dish. Hide the soil with a soft layer of moss for a tidy look. White **PLANTER,** IKEA, ikea.ca.

11. think outside the bow

Use faux flowers, millinery bows, old corsages or brooches as creative gift toppers. Be sure to stick to the requisite green-on-green scheme for a cohesive look.

THROWS, Qui Dort Dîne, quidortdine.ca; **GIFT WRAP,** Essence du Papier, essencedupapier.com.

See our guide to holiday decorating with festive flowers at **STYLEATHOME.COM/FESTIVEFLOWERS.**

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ALL THE trimmings

In honour of the main holiday showpiece, here are five no-fail steps everyone should take to decorate their treasured Christmas tree.

TEXT
ERYN CHESNEY
PHOTOGRAPHY
DONNA GRIFFITH
STYLING
ANN MARIE FAVOT

Within every family, there's something special about the sacred ritual of decorating the Christmas tree. Maybe it's the careful unwrapping of the ornaments from their tissue beds, each conjuring a memory of holidays past. Or perhaps it's the moment when everyone gathers around the finished tree, revelling in its glowing beauty. Whatever it may be, there are things about the annual trimming of the tree that we all share. Here, we've put together the basic steps to create a beautiful Christmas tree, each with room for personal interpretation. Because it doesn't matter if your ornaments match or what colour scheme you choose – it's family coming together and sharing the moment that makes it so special.

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7 material must-haves

- ☐ evergreen tree
- ☐ tree stand
- ☐ tree skirt
- ☐ lights
- ☐ garlands
- ☐ ornaments
- ☐ tree topper (optional)

TREE, Sheridan Nurseries, sheridannurseries.com; **ORNAMENTS, GARLANDS,** Rizo Lola & Company, rizololaandcompany.com, Loblaws, Real Canadian Superstore, superstore.ca; **STRING LIGHTS,** Walmart, walmart.ca.; Kartell Upper **STEPLADDER,** Quasi Modo Modern Furniture, quasimodomodern.com.

Place your tree in a tree stand on a towel to protect the floor from any spills. If you feel you require extra sturdiness, pile a few bricks or pavers around it. Prune any unruly branches. Give the tree a generous watering and sweep away any needles that have fallen.

Arrange a tree skirt or drape a piece of fabric around the base of the tree, ensuring that the stand is covered. Starting from the top, begin to wrap your lights around the tree, weaving them through the branches for maximum illumination later.

Beginning at the top of the tree, weave the garlands through the branches. As you work your way down, slightly increase the amount you use. As a rule, it looks best if thin garland is hung from branch to branch and thick garland is wrapped loosely around the tree.

Hang your favourite ornaments first, showcasing them on the front of the tree. Hang the rest of your ornaments, starting with the large ones and then filling in the holes with the small ones. Don't forget to add some closer to the trunk and around the back.

If you like the look of a tree topper, set it on the top, clipping the branch to the appropriate height. Scatter wrapped gifts on the skirt around the base of the tree and enjoy the beauty of your creation with family and friends.

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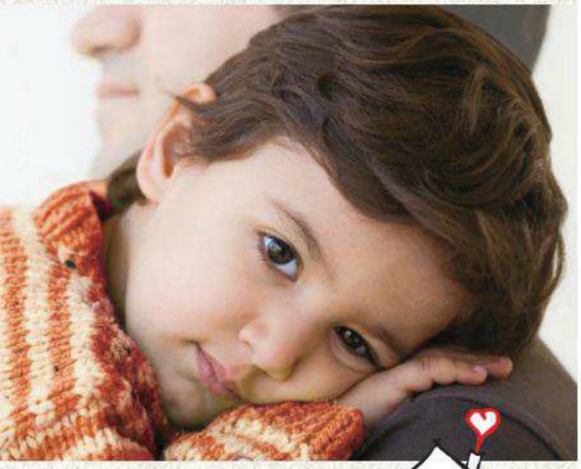

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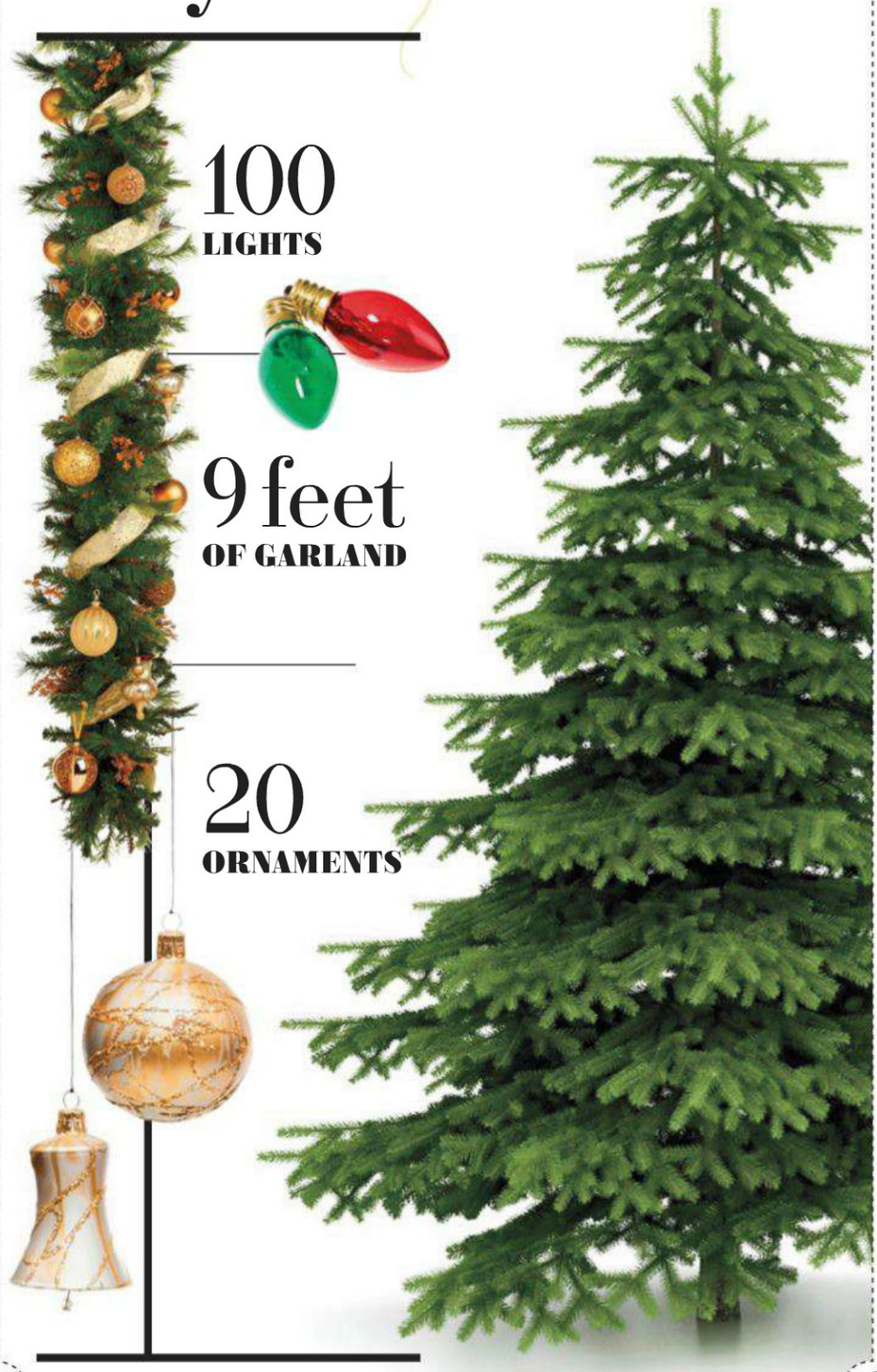

For more secrets to trimming the perfect tree, visit **STYLEATHOME.COM/DECORATINGATREE.**

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Swatch_0202

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DESIGNERS AT HOME FOR THE **HOLIDAYS**

CHRISTINE HANLON

tradition with a *twist*

Inspired by natural elements, *Style at Home* contributing design editor Christine Hanlon transforms her home into a holiday haven that resonates with playful eclectic charm.

TEXT CHRISTY WRIGHT

PHOTOGRAPHY
MICHAEL GRAYDON

The impressive Christmas tree commands attention in the family room and boasts a well-edited array of sparkling ornaments. Contributing design editor Christine Hanlon says: "When the kids put the decorations on the tree, they always place similar ones close together. I'm trying to teach them to space them out so, for example, the owls aren't all in the same spot!"

TREE, Sheridan Nurseries.

From cocktail umbrellas and penguins on the dinner table to a royal blue and white colour scheme, *Style at Home* contributing design editor Christine Hanlon's Toronto home is a testament to her original approach to holiday decor. "My design aesthetic errs on the side of traditional, but I like to incorporate old and new," she says. "I prefer a fresh look that is comfortable and definitely has quirky elements." Luckily, that quirkiness is something the whole family – husband Andrew, daughter Sophie, 8, and son Henry, 5 – appreciates. "My kids love all the fun details, especially the animals, which is great because I like the kids to be very included in the decorating process."

The entire family is also involved in getting the house holiday-ready. "We start decorating just a few days before Christmas and Sophie and Henry can't wait to pitch in," says Christine. A real tree is a must. "I like Fraser and balsam firs – one with strong branches and a nice compact appearance – but this year we tried a newer variety called a noble fir and it's gorgeous." The tree is placed in the family room and trimmed in the evening. "Having the kids help decorate certainly factors in. They're right in there choosing and arranging, learning how to put it all together – without dropping the glass balls," she says.

Setting the dining room table is another one of their favourite festive activities. "We love it! Sophie likes to help with the flowers and both kids enjoy putting on music and helping with drinks or snacks if we're entertaining guests." For the family meal – usually turkey or roast beef – Christine creates a fantastical tabletop complete with what she calls unpredictable touches. "The felt reindeer are so much fun," she says.

EASY IDEA
An unadorned boxwood wreath says festive without the flourish.

ABOVE The festive palette fits in nicely with the family room's existing decor. The boxwood wreath and paperwhites add natural warmth.

WREATH, POTTED NARCISSUS, Sheridan Nurseries; Waste Not Paper **GIFT WRAP,** Teatro Verde.

LEFT With no detail left untouched, even the wrapped gifts are consistent with the home's holiday colours.

RIGHT A faux bamboo dresser in the kitchen is the basis for a painterly vignette of some of Christine's holiday essentials: hellebores and paperwhites replanted in pots and urns and bowls of seasonal fruit.

"They're quite soft and just the perfect shade of snowy white. I had the paper umbrellas in my stash of treasures and love the tropical feel they add."

As well as mixing things up at the table, Christine is always looking to update the overall scheme and keep it interesting. "I may vary it slightly with a new accent colour or make a bigger change once in a while. Two years ago, I did a fuller tree with raspberry, turquoise and red accents. It was really lush and colourful." So would she ever consider traditional red and green? "We'd have some trouble as we would need to invest in an entirely new selection of decorations, but I think Sophie and Henry would like a traditional scheme, including felt elves with bendy legs and jingle bells. Maybe next year…."

EASY IDEA

Opt for faux garland that has wire inside of it so you can easily twist it around a banister.

5 things Christine Hanlon can't live without during the holidays

1 Boxwood.
"Whether it's wreaths, garland or simple sprigs on gifts, boxwood never disappoints."

2 Wrapped gifts.
"I actually look forward to wrapping! I'm such a sucker for pretty packaging, it's a pleasure to shop for."

3 Paperwhites.
"I replant these in pots or bowls, tied with raffia or cotton, and place them all over the house."

4 Quirky elements.
"It could be a critter ornament, gifts wrapped in fabric or a tray of summery cocktails. I just like to have fun."

5 Christmas music.
"We have a few holiday albums that we like to play every year: Kenny G, Barenaked Ladies and Raffi. These are our favourites."

OPPOSITE Snow-white velvet stockings, each identified by an initial ornament, are tied to a fresh boxwood garland.

Boxwood **GARLAND,** Sheridan Nurseries; velvet **STOCKINGS,** Pottery Barn; letter **ORNAMENT,** Anthropologie.

LEFT Standard Mason jars are seen in a whole new light when filled with white epsom salts and a votive candle.

RIGHT Animal gift tags add an eclectic touch to presents and the dining table (shown below).

BELOW The table setting – which seamlessly combines disparate items, such as vintage bowls, cocktail umbrellas and felt reindeer figurines – is the perfect backdrop for festive meals.

Cotton **NAPKINS,** Angus & Company; **DINNER PLATES,** reindeer **ORNAMENTS,** Anthropologie; **CHARGERS, CUTLERY,** Pottery Barn; vintage **BOWLS,** Putti Fine Furnishings.

EASY IDEA

Use tropical cocktail umbrellas for a fun, unexpected element.

"My kids love all the fun details, especially the animals, which is great because I like the kids to be included in the decorating process."

CHRISTINE HANLON, HOMEOWNER

Get inspired by more glamorous holiday decor. Visit **STYLEATHOME.COM/HOLIDAYGLAMOUR.**

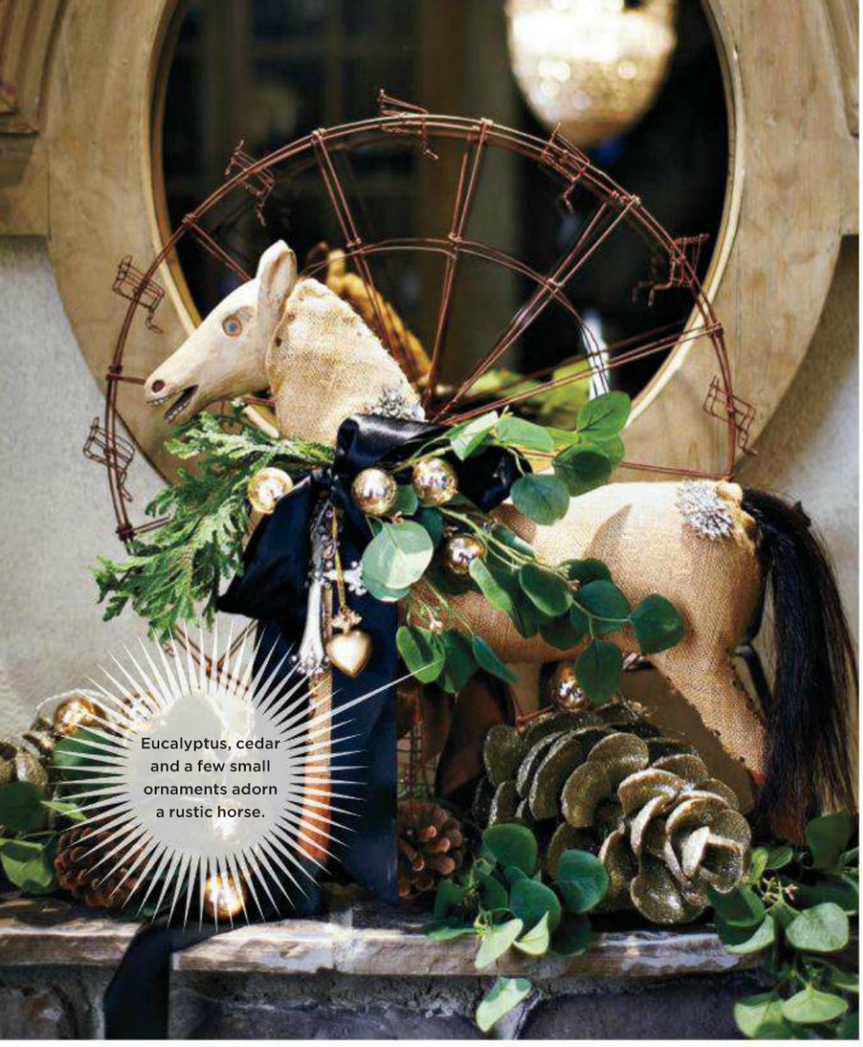
Artificial greenery looks more lifelike than ever before and offers a way to include Mother Nature's creativity for as long as you want without the mess. Here's how to incorporate the faux stuff into your home this holiday.

PRODUCER CATHERINE THERRIEN

LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Homeowner Victoria Mifsud-Teti doesn't miss a bauble when it comes to decorating her Toronto home for Christmas. To extend the season and reuse her greenery year after year in different ways, Victoria opts for authentic-looking foliage, evergreens, berries and blooms, which she also carries at her beautiful home decor boutique Rizo Lola & Company (rizololaandcompany.com). Here are a few of Victoria's favourites (clockwise from top left): ivy berries, pine, red berries, magnolia, balsam fir, amaryllis and cedar.

PHOTOGRAPHY, MICHAEL GRAYDON (INTERIOR), JOE KIM/TC MEDIA (FAUX GREENERY)


Eucalyptus, cedar and a few small ornaments adorn a rustic horse.

A pedestal bowl filled with moss and a single ornament makes for a special place setting.

Red berries, a sprig of cedar and a pine cone draw attention to this mercury glass vase.

A few sprigs of cedar tucked into a burlap stocking enhance the natural theme.

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A magnolia garland accents the window beautifully and mimics the existing curves of the space.
Pine cones, twigs, cedar and white balls set in a tarnished silver pot work well together.

5 top spots to decorate with faux greenery

1 mantels
Create a pretty vignette along a mantel, then adorn a sculpture or candlesticks with small bundles of greenery, baubles and ribbon.

2 place settings
Spare no expense and surprise guests with a unique place setting. Include an ornament in the arrangement as a take-home gift.

3 tabletops
Stage an eye-catching display by grouping together natural elements in a single container, accented by a few other decor pieces.

4 windows
Drape garlands across windows, paying specific attention to opening up the leaves and twisting and turning the branches for a natural look.

5 light fixtures
Dress up spare-looking fixtures like a chandelier by weaving a vine or garland through its arms in a relaxed fashion.

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PRODUCER JESSICA WAKS

GIVE *the* GIFT

We've scoured the stores and wandered the web to bring you our yearly wish list of all the best goodies, gadgets and more.

PHOTOGRAPHY: RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA

GIFT BOXES, TISSUE PAPER, RIBBONS (throughout), Creative Bag, creativebag.com.

Porcelain **CREAMER,** $15, HomeSense, homesense.ca.

for THE MOM WHO HOSTS

Fujifilm XF1 **DIGITAL CAMERA** in Red, $500, Fujifilm, fujifilm.ca.

ABC **PAPERWEIGHT,** $30 US, John Derian Company, johnderian.com.

PC Holiday Nordic **SIDE PLATE,** $3, Loblaws, Real Canadian Superstore, superstore.ca.

NESTING DOLLS, $38 US per set of 3, Wee Gallery, weegallery.com.

WE LOVE IT

Spirits **DECANTER,** $30, Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca.

Chloe Swivel **JEWELLERY STORAGE,** $60, PBteen, pbteen.com.

Ruffled **PIE DISHES** in Rasberry and Fig, $50 each, Emile Henry, emilehenry.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (CREAMER, PIE DISHES, JEWELLERY STORAGE)

COVERGIRL®

JESSICA STAM

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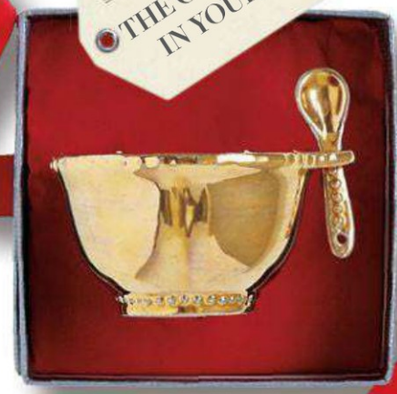
Jessica Stam sizzles in Spellbound from LipPerfection. See the full collection at covergirl.ca

WE LOVE IT

Winter Dogs kids' **PYJAMAS,** $35, Hatley, hatleystore.com.

for THE COLLECTOR IN YOUR LIFE



Mini **SALT CELLAR** in Gold, $14 US, Anthropologie, anthropologie.com.

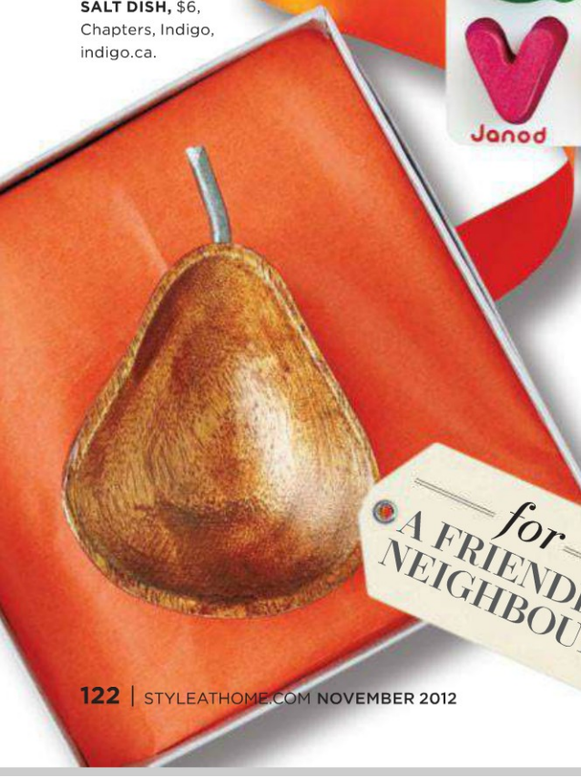
Magnolia boxed **NOTECARDS** in Teal and Yellow, $12 per set of 8, Kate & Birdie Paper Co., kateandbirdie.com.

DwellStudio wooden **TOYS,** $27 each, Elte, elte.com.

Janod wooden alphabet **PUZZLE,** $40, Elte, elte.com.

FRENCH PRESS in Cherry, $80, Le Creuset, lecreuset.ca.

Wooden pear **SALT DISH,** $6, Chapters, Indigo, indigo.ca.



for A FRIENDLY NEIGHBOUR

Arik Levy for Vitra **TOOLBOX,** $60 US, Design Within Reach, dwr.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (PYJAMAS, SALT CELLAR, NOTECARDS, SALT DISH, PUZZLE)

SPECIAL **ISSUE**

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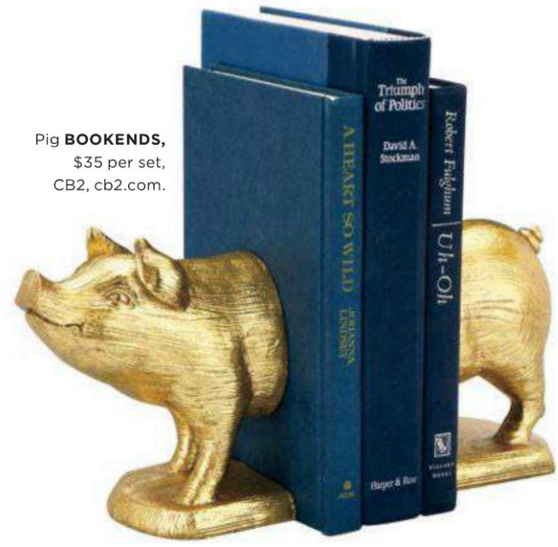
East Village **WATCH,** $300, Michael Kors, michaelkors.com.

Alessi Progiotti **COOKIE CUTTER SET,** $60, Bergo Designs, bergo.ca.

Pig **BOOKENDS,** $35 per set, CB2, cb2.com.



Brass Seahorse **LETTER OPENER,** $98 US, Jonathan Adler, jonathanadler.com.

Play Clothes Block Print **ROBE** in Grey Blue, $120, Au Lit Fine Linens, aulitfinelinens.com.

Barbara Barry Elegant **LENS,** $179, and **OPENER,** $120, Global Views, globalviews.com.

DA-E750 **AUDIO DOCK,** from $699, Samsung, samsung.ca.

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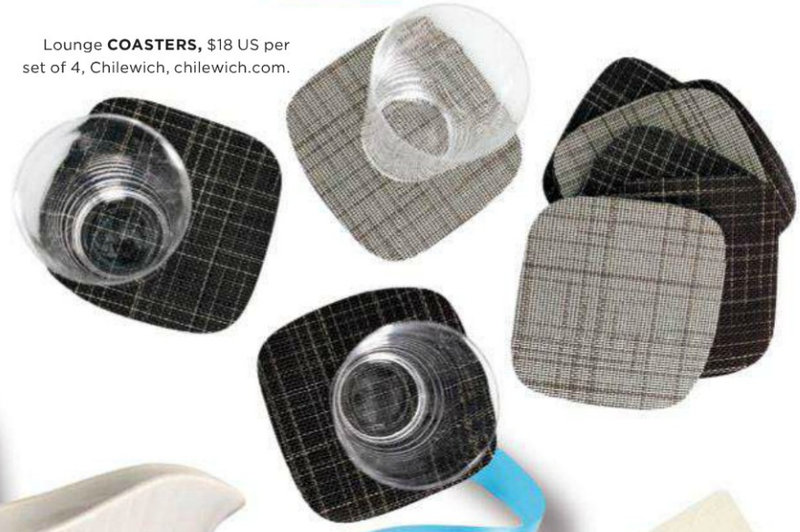
iPad combo **DOCK SPEAKER,** $200, Williams-Sonoma, williams-sonoma.ca.

Style at Home Limited Edition Collection oval **TRAYS,** from $40, styleathome.com/shop.

WE LOVE IT

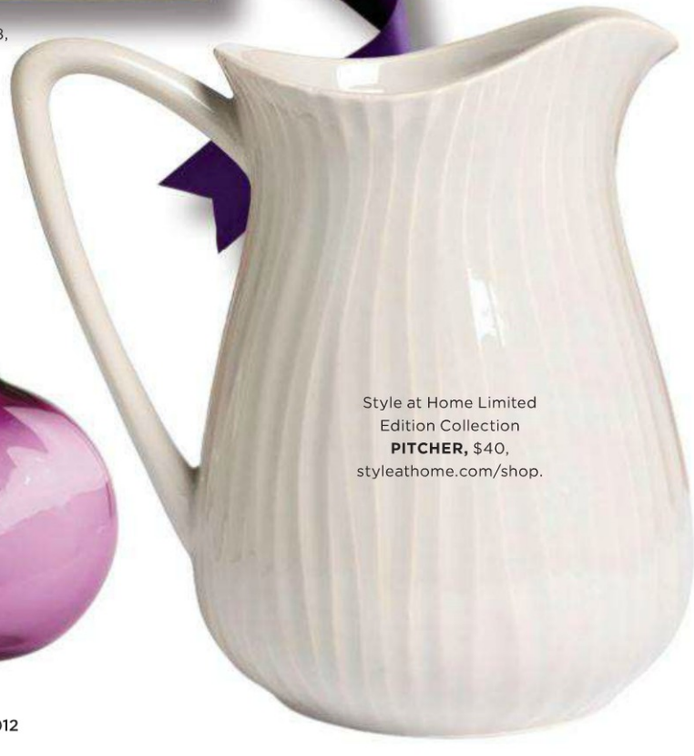
Coeur de Lion Textiles Canadian wool **THROWS,** $225 each, available through One of a Kind Show Toronto, oneofakindshow.com.

Lounge **COASTERS,** $18 US per set of 4, Chilewich, chilewich.com.



Ela M.I.L.C.K. **CLUTCH** in Hot Pink, $298, Holt Renfrew, holtrenfrew.com.

John Geci glass **VASES** in Aqua, $440, and Purple, $265, Joan Eiley, joaneiley.com.



Style at Home Limited Edition Collection **PITCHER,** $40, styleathome.com/shop.

Signature **TEA CADDIE** in Persian Palace, $26, Sloane Fine Tea Merchants, sloanetea.com.

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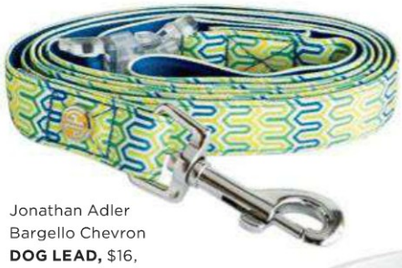
DwellStudio **ELEPHANT** in Silver, $45, Global Views, globalviews.com.

Daphne Frame **CLUTCH** in Light Grey, Charcoal and Onyx Leather, $875, Tiffany & Co., tiffany.ca.

Skinny Kayan stackable **RINGS,** from $90, Pontus and Hawke, pontusandhawke.com.



Jonathan Adler Bargello Chevron **DOG LEAD,** $16, The Bay, thebay.com.

Cucina perfumed **CANDLES,** $15 each, Fruits & Passion, fruits-passion.ca.

Missoni **STUFFED BEAR,** $50, Holt Renfrew, holtrenfrew.com.

WE LOVE IT

Pacific Connections lacquered **PENCIL BOX,** $88, Provide, providehome.com.

Herschel canvas Novel **BAG,** $119, Drake General Store, drakegeneralstore.ca.

Nilesh Ladd Herringbone **IPAD CASE,** $165, available through One of a Kind Show Toronto, oneofakindshow.com.

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PHOTOGRAPHY, MONIC RICHARD

2012 November

COZY COMFORT OR GLITZ AND GLAM – THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

something old, something new 132

glittering prize 138

true to formal 146

DESIGNERS AT HOME FOR THE **HOLIDAYS**

DEBBIE TRAVIS

The large frosted green wreath hung on the living room's secretaire serves as a festive focal point.

Debbie Travis Collection **WREATH,** Canadian Tire; **FLOWERS** (throughout), Fauchois Fleurs.

OPPOSITE The tree in the living room is adorned with white and silver decorations – many nature inspired – which create a look that's both sophisticated and fun. Supplanting the ubiquitous angel or star, the tree's elegant topper is made of a mix of silver and white Christmas balls, ribbon and feathery branches all tied together.

Debbie Travis Collection artificial **TREE & ORNAMENTS** (throughout), Canadian Tire; **TOSS CUSHIONS, THROW,** Celadon.

something old, SOMETHING NEW

A formal nature theme feels right at home in decorating guru Debbie Travis's Montreal abode. Set against a backdrop of crisp white walls, cherished antiques and beautiful architectural detailing, her new holiday decorating scheme nets anything but cool results, especially for family and friends who get the pleasure of taking it all in.

TEXT LAURA MUIR

PHOTOGRAPHY MONIC RICHARD

STYLING NICOLA MARC

Debbie Travis revels in her family Christmas traditions. Whether it's stuffing stockings with the requisite socks and toothbrushes, lighting the plum pudding after a big turkey dinner ("I usually use a whole bottle of brandy to get the thing lit!" she says) or organizing the annual open house on Boxing Day (a custom inspired by her childhood growing up in England), these tried-and-true rituals are always something to look forward to and enjoy. But for Canada's decorating doyenne, who has done everything from producing and hosting several popular makeover series to creating her own product line, it makes perfect sense that adhering to tradition doesn't necessarily apply to her Christmas decorating.

"I really like to change it up," says Debbie. When it comes to

bedecking her Montreal home for the holidays, she gives the stately 1880s house she shares with her husband, Hans Rosenstein, and two grown children, Josh and Max, a new look each year. This holiday season, Debbie veered from her usual eclectic approach and incorporated a more streamlined aesthetic, using decorations in the same silver, white and green palette throughout. "I like to have fun with my decorating, but this year I went a bit more posh," she says.

Enhancing this winter wonderland of a colour scheme and lending a bit of rustic charm are ornaments that nod to nature. Deer, birds, snowflakes, pine cones and antlers ("Anything you'd see on a woodland walk," says Debbie) can be spotted sitting on the mantel, tied to garlands and hanging from the tree.

While the look is consistent everywhere, Debbie still kept in mind the style and function of each room when incorporating her Christmas decor. With its cherished antiques, English-style furniture and Victorian architectural details, the decidedly classic living room is decked with a fully trimmed tree overflowing with ornaments and topped with a cluster of balls, ribbon and feathery branches. A smaller tree set in an urn offers just the right amount of Christmas cheer in the dining room. "I always put a smaller tree in there and then keep it really simple," says Debbie. "This year I used little Christmas trees and little white birdhouses to decorate it. You don't want the tree to be too busy by the time you've dressed the table."

With Debbie, nothing is overlooked. Even the powder room, with its show-stopping wallpaper (which Debbie designed and had made), is given a quick and easy festive touch. Here, she places one single ornament next to a tiny tree because, according to this consummate decorator, no matter where you are in the house, something should be there to say Happy Christmas.

5 things Debbie Travis can't live without during the holidays

1 Having the family all together. "There are usually about 18 of us – brothers and sisters and my kids and their kids. That's the most important thing."

2 Setting the table. "I try to make everyone leave the house on Christmas Day – get them to go for a walk or something – and then I'll make a big effort in setting the table. I love pulling out all the things I rarely use throughout the year, such as the silverware and good glasses and decanters. It's my moment."

3 Wine. "I like to serve a really good wine during Christmas dinner. It can be something we've collected over the years or something that has a story behind it."

4 Battery-operated candles. "I love leaving the candles lit during Christmas, and the battery-operated ones give a nice flickering glow, are safe to leave out (I had a terrible fire on Christmas Day about four years ago) and are great for tucking into greenery on the mantel."

5 Christmas cards. "In England, sending a Christmas card is a big tradition. E-cards just aren't the same as the real thing and you can't print them out. I love hanging cards on ribbons or putting them on the mantel. They're a nice catch-up for family and friends."

OPPOSITE, TOP The staircase in the front hall, which features a Florentine fresco created 12 years ago for an episode of *Debbie Travis' Painted House*, is embellished with an artificial pre-lit garland and pretty bunches of ornaments, making decorating super-easy during the busy holiday season.

Debbie Travis Collection artificial **GARLAND,** Canadian Tire; **RIBBONS,** Masterstroke Canada.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM Placed on the fireplace mantel, a sculptural wooden deer is an intriguing rustic hit that balances the opulent look of the cherub sconces and gilt mirror. Dressed with other decorations, such as pillar candles, an artificial garland and quilted stockings, the mantel display exudes holiday warmth.

Debbie Travis Collection artificial **GARLAND, CANDLESTICKS, STOCKINGS, WRAPPING PAPER & DEER,** Canadian Tire; **RIBBONS,** Masterstroke Canada.

The living room exemplifies the snowy, sophisticated colour scheme – white and silver with hits of green – used throughout for the Christmas decorations. The bay window provides a perfect spot to place the tree.

LIDDED BOX (on coffee table), **BOOKS, CACHEPOT,** small **TRAY,** Bisque Duomo **SCULPTURE,** gold **LIDDED POT** (on mantel), Celadon.

For homeowner Debbie Travis, who likes to serve Prosecco and a good red wine to her guests, Christmas provides the perfect opportunity to use her pretty crystal decanters. "When else do we really bother to decant stuff?" she says.

Debbie Travis Collection **DISHWARE,** silver **DEER, WINEGLASSES** (on dining table), and small artificial **TREE** (in dining room), Canadian Tire; **DECANTERS,** large ceramic **VASES,** large glass **SERVING BOWL** (on dining table), Celadon; **TABLECLOTH, NAPKINS,** Qui Dort Dîne; mercury glass **VASES,** glass **BOWLS,** green **GLASSES** (on dining table), **CUTLERY** (on dining table), Beige.

Try Debbie Travis's easy holiday DIY ideas. Go to **STYLEATHOME.COM/DEBBIETRAVISDIY.**

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT The living room's fireplace mantel, adorned with an artificial garland dressed up with pine cones, offers a spot for Debbie to display a collection of Christmas cards; serving drinks from crystal decanters makes the occasion feel that much more special; a petal-shaped marble dish, a gift from a friend in Indonesia, holds a group of ornaments on a side table in the living room ("It's nice at Christmas to use those beautiful containers you may have around the house to put ornaments in," she says); the living room's antique Queen Anne-style secretaire – a piece Debbie inherited from her mother – holds many of Debbie's heirloom pieces and acts as display space for a holiday vignette; "Because there are so many of us at Christmas dinner, I like doing place settings and I usually try to use ornaments," says Debbie, referring to this birdhouse ornament placed on top of a linen napkin and paired with a pine cone; the decorating guru at home for the holidays; mercury glass vases and a pair of Edwardian salt and pepper shakers add a bit of sophisticated sparkle to the dining table; with a linen tablecloth from Italy and simple all-white dishware, the dining room table is set for a relaxed Boxing Day buffet-style meal.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

STEPHANIE VOGLER

GLITTERING PRIZE

TEXT BETHANY LYTTLE

PHOTOGRAPHY JANIS NICOLAY

For a family holiday home that truly sparkles, homeowner Stephanie Vogler, co-owner of the Cross Decor & Design in Vancouver, relies on simplicity and sumptuous style.

Homeowner Stephanie Vogler settles in for a holiday story with her children, Hudson, 5, and Emerson, 4.

LEFT Bathed in natural light, Stephanie's office is an ideal place to address Christmas cards and review Santa's shopping list.

DINING CHAIR, TASK LAMP, BUST, CHANDELIER, GIFT WRAP, CARDS (taped on wall), The Cross Decor & Design; **WREATH** (on bust), Granville Island Florist.

BELOW Brown kraft paper serves as gift wrap. A candy cane-striped ribbon gives the present festive flair.

BOTTOM Treats may be a Christmas mainstay but Stephanie usually buys, rather than bakes, them. "I don't try to be a hero. You can only do so much!" she says.

A seven-minute walk is all that separates Stephanie Vogler's Yaletown apartment from the Cross Decor & Design, the decor store she co-owns with her friend Darci Ilich. But as she strolls home after a day at the shop, Stephanie consciously uses the short time to set thoughts of business behind her. "I love my work and I love playing with textures and colours, but I want home to be about spending time with my family," she says, referring to her husband, John Pierce, and their two children, Hudson, 5, and Emerson, 4. To aid in her goal, Stephanie lets simplicity be her guide. "Everything at home is casual and spontaneous," she says – a philosophy that's especially true during the holidays.

Case in point is the home's Christmas centrepiece, a flocked tree complete with snowy boughs caked in white that provide instant texture and light, even without ornaments. The wintry conifer imparts a sense of enchantment, something that Stephanie notes was a key element for Hudson and Emerson's holiday experience. "There's so little snow in Vancouver," she says. "The tree is my way of letting them enjoy that classic Christmas feeling at home." Even the Scandinavian-inspired ornaments were selected with the children in mind. "They're delightfully simple and gentle," says Stephanie. "They're about imagination and dreaming, not about making a decorating statement."

Of course, with Stephanie's innate sense of style, she can't help but decorate, even when she's not trying. Gifts wrapped in simple brown or white paper are transformed into lovely collections thanks to her impulse to top each with a →

A flocked tree was a gift to Hudson and Emerson. "In Vancouver we don't get a lot of snow so I thought they'd have fun if I brought a little bit of the white stuff inside," says Stephanie. Shimmering metallics are part of the holiday theme.

Vintage gilt **CHAIR,** sequinned **TOSS CUSHION, COWHIDE, POUFFE,** striped **STOCKING,** The Cross Decor & Design; **SHEEPSKIN,** IKEA.

Layers of white and cream are everywhere here, their hues a suggestion of winter, their textures soft and cozy. Holiday meals are enjoyed with friends in the open dining room and the approach is simple and easy. "I want guests to feel relaxed enough to open the fridge and help themselves," says Stephanie.

SECTIONAL, COFFEE TABLE, CLOCHE, silver **TRAY, DINING TABLE, DINING CHAIRS,** Canopy Designs Manoir **CHANDELIER,** Santa Monica Beach **PHOTOGRAPH,** The Cross Decor & Design.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Stephanie refers to her home office as her "sanctuary in the sky"; holiday sweets are presented with a side of sparkling vintage decorations; a tiny white piano shares the floor with a bundle of string lights; a simple white gift box looks elegant with a metallic blue ribbon; the Belgian-style chest in the dining room was painted white by Stephanie and doubles as a bar and a buffet; "I like to create pretty vignettes with things I already own," says Stephanie of the creamy roses, candy canes and metallic wallpaper remnants that share space on a tabletop; the gilded antique French mirror was the starting point for Stephanie's decorating scheme; a casual dinner party setting takes on an elegant glow with candlelight.

FLOATING SHELF, IKEA; **STRING LIGHTS** (on floor), Canadian Tire; **PIANO, TINSEL TREE, BUFFET, PRINT,** white **MIRROR,** cornice **SHELF, CROWNS,** vintage gilt **MIRROR,** hemp doily **GARLAND,** pine cone **GARLAND,** The Cross Decor & Design; **FAIRY LIGHTS** (on mirror), Restoration Hardware.

5 things Stephanie Vogler can't live without during the holidays

1 Crafting with the kids and wrapping gifts with sparkly ribbon. "Emerson and I will make glam beaded necklaces for friends with vintage silver beads I've collected on my travels. We often make our own gift wrap, too, using kraft paper and white or metallic stamps. I like the contrast of the homemade kraft wrap with sparkly ribbon. Everyone re-uses ribbon, so I think it's okay to splurge!"

2 Going to the bakery. "If I'm short on time, I buy plain gingerbread men from the bakery and decorate them at home with the kids. It's all about the icing and candies after all. And my father is German, so in keeping with tradition we always have stollen on hand during the holidays."

3 Decorating the tree. "I collect classic white, silver and gold ornaments and add pops of colour in my holiday decor depending on my mood that season. This year it was coral and blush."

4 Setting out treats. "I collect pretty vases and bowls all year long, and at Christmastime, I love to place treats in them around the house. Meinhardt Fine Foods in Vancouver is a go-to during the holidays for imported goodies."

5 Volunteering. "I love getting involved in the community, and giving back during the holidays is really rewarding."

sparkling ribbon or candy-striped bow. And when Stephanie tugs strings of fairy lights into place, it's not a mess that emerges, it's magic. Draped across shelves or dropped to the floor, they become twinkling stars, filling the home with whimsy and wonder. "I'm not a fussy person," says Stephanie. "I don't worry about the kids spilling drinks on the sofa, or setting a fancy table for friends. If I want a bit of glamour, which I do love, I just drop in touches of silver and gold. Against a neutral background, their shine always makes a room feel special."

As far as Christmas traditions go, Stephanie says that only the metallic theme remains consistent, and the accent colour is changed every year. "One year it might be green, another it might be icy blue," she says. This year, she was inspired by a coral-coloured cushion from the shop. "It's a warm red that's bright at the same time. I love it." So, tying some ribbon here and dangling some ornaments there, she brought the happy hue into her home.

After the holidays, the glamour remains. The living room, for example, has as its year-round focal point a large antique gilded mirror that Stephanie fell in love with when they first moved in. "I added a French gilt chair and a gold-toned chandelier. Any time you have a grouping of three things of a single type, you have a theme," she says. From there, she brought neutral modern pieces into the room, all of them casual in style, including the slipcovered sofa and tumble-friendly pouffe. "We want friends to walk in, plop down and be themselves," she adds. Simple, yes – and simply spectacular, too!

OPPOSITE, TOP Emerson and Hudson delight in the prospect of early Christmas gifts. Simple wrapping with ribbons and beads lets little hands open boxes quickly.

Faceted **LAMP, NIGHTSTAND,** The Cross Decor & Design.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM Roses are a constant in Stephanie's home. "My grandmother was a painter and most of her art included roses. I think I inherited my love of them from her," says Stephanie.

Against a silvery backdrop of tone-on-tone wallpaper, the snow-white tufted headboard and soft bedding welcomes lazy-morning lounging. The soothing palette includes warm creams, greys, whites and peachy-pink tones.

Tufted **BED, BEDDING,** Designers Guild **WALLPAPER, NIGHTSTAND,** mercury glass **VASE, CLOCK,** The Cross Decor & Design; **TABLE LAMP,** IKEA; **ARTWORK,** Gabryel Harrison.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

TRUE *to* FORMAL

Elegance comes naturally to architect Dee Dee Taylor Eustace. So during the holidays, she trusts her gut, buys on a whim and makes traditional trendy again.

TEXT KATHLEEN DORE | **PHOTOGRAPHY** DONNA GRIFFITH

A lush garland of boxwood, crystal beads and silver pine cones frames the graceful arched doorway in homeowner Dee Dee Taylor Eustace's dining room.

DESIGN, Taylor Hannah Architect, taylorhannah-architect.ca; **GREENERY** (throughout), Emblem.

Dee Dee Taylor Eustace rarely wears flats, doesn't like to cook, and the only wine she drinks is Chardonnay – no apologies. The haute couture-loving architect and interior designer is as at home in her Toronto coach house wearing a black strapless gown as she is in track pants (though there's no photographic evidence of the latter – we have to take her word for it). "The setting is formal," says Dee Dee of the über-elegant 3,500-square-foot home she shares with her teenagers, Jake and Rachael, "but we live in every room. I eat breakfast at my dining room table." The best silverware is, as always, on the table, and the vibe is cosmopolitan and sophisticated.

The sentiment captures her approach to holiday decorating, too. Dee Dee's place is done but not overdone. Fresh flowers and seasonal greenery herald the holidays, but "This isn't Tinseltown. You don't have to decorate every space. What's the saying? Put on your jewellery for the day and then take one piece off. That's what I try to do," says Dee Dee.

That said, the formal-traditional rooms, filled with architectural articulation like fanlights, arches and columns are adorned in seasonal finery – something different each year. Dee Dee chooses a colour palette and heads to her go-to florist, Jan Dattels Ortved at Emblem. Together, they devise a scheme that's expressed to varying degrees throughout the home. "This year, it's boxwood garlands and wreaths," says Dee Dee. Crystal vases hold white amaryllis, roses and freesia, with silver-painted pine cones and sprigs of crystal berries.

The look is timeless and glamorous, much like her everyday

OPPOSITE, FAR LEFT Symmetry brings classic elegance to the marble-topped mahogany sideboard: A display of white twigs, crystal berries and painted pine cones in a porcelain vase is flanked by "really old and wobbly" candelabras.

CANDELABRAS (on sideboard), Residential Lighting Studio.

OPPOSITE, LEFT The garland draped over the living room's fireplace mantel is not only fresh and full of fun but it also matches the greenery in the dining room for a continuous look.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM LEFT European antiques furnish the formal dining room, with its impressive 11-foot-high ceilings and traditional architecture. Modern elements and a sense of daring – note the striking chandelier and pink upholstery – are crucial in keeping the space from feeling like a period piece.

"I'm not a cook, but I love to set the table," admits Dee Dee. "I'm always collecting china and glassware." She lives by the rule that the good silver and crystal should be used all the time.

SILVERWARE, Christofle; **CANDELABRAS,** Residential Lighting Studio.

5 things Dee Dee Taylor Eustace can't live without during the holidays

1 Tradition. "It's important to me to display things that I've had for years, like my collection of ornaments. It's about remembering the past."

2 Style. "I also want to bring something new to the holidays every year like a few new ornaments for the tree and a fresh take on greenery."

3 Simplicity. "I like things to be simple, elegant and beautiful. I don't like it over the top or too commercial."

4 Love. "The holidays are about my children, my family and friends. I want to celebrate them – I want to see them happy."

5 Celebration. "I think we need to celebrate."

"I HAVE COLLECTED ORNAMENTS FOR YEARS AND YEARS, AND STILL BUY ABOUT A DOZEN NEW ONES EVERY SEASON."

DEE DEE TAYLOR EUSTACE, HOMEOWNER & DESIGNER

environment, which Dee Dee created by layering English and French antiques with standout modern pieces like the dining room's ornate chandelier and contemporary art. "I look at furniture the same way I look at fashion," she says. "If I like it, it's going to work. I buy it and put it with what I have, regardless of whether I can use it right away."

The same love-it-or-leave-it approach goes for tree decorations, too. "I love my tree," she says. "I have collected ornaments for years and years, and still buy about a dozen new ones every season." This year it was crystal Sputnik-like ornaments that caught Dee Dee's eye. Blue LED lights feel modern as well, complementing the cool colour scheme of grey walls and white woodwork in the open-concept primary rooms.

"I love open-concept living," says Dee Dee of the dining/living/family room combination that runs the length of the first floor. Features like columns and chandeliers define rooms without disrupting the flow, making the space ideal for entertaining – something Dee Dee loves to do. She hosts three or four gatherings every December. Her advice for a great party? Set the stage with a tree, flowers, crystal and china, then set the tone. "I can wear a black formal dress, but guests can come in jeans – I'm cool with that." After all, the most important thing is to enjoy the moment with the people you care about. "I want to make it wonderful for them, to spoil them," she says. "We need to stop, take pause and celebrate."

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

Dee Dee dishes on design, shopping and movies! Read more at **STYLEATHOME.COM/DEEDEETAYLOR.**

OPPOSITE, TOP Grey silk panels and a lighter grey on the walls emphasize the crisp white millwork and add textural interest. The mantel's boxwood garland puddles on the floor for a luxe effect.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM Dee Dee, her daughter Rachael (right) and Rachael's best friend, Logan Rocket-Munk, are ready to celebrate.

The living room's pale palette lends itself to layers of pattern and texture, like the chinoiserie-inspired print of the sofa fabric paired with the fur and floral-patterned toss cushions.

Kenzo Maison solid **TOSS CUSHION,** Fendi Casa fur **TOSS CUSHION,** John Paul & Co.; Jim Thompson silk **SOFA FABRIC,** Télio.

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RECIPES YOLANDA GAMPP | **PHOTOGRAPHY** JOE KIM | **FOOD STYLING** TARA BALLANTYNE & YOLANDA GAMPP | **PROP STYLING** ANN MARIE FAVOT

LET THEM EAT *cake!*

The words may be the same, but our sentiment is decidedly different from that attributed to doomed Marie Antoinette. We think the holidays are the perfect time to reveal your culinary prowess to the world, and we've got just the thing to make it happen – two glorious confections, created and decorated by super-talented baker Yolanda Gampp of Food Network Canada's *SugarStars* fame, along with a little help from our very own style and food editor Tara Ballantyne. Simply baked with one easy cake recipe (we promise!) and some decadent fillings, these cakes are dressed to the nines and presented in kind to inspire and share with those you love the most – or those you just want to impress....

PHOTOGRAPHY, JOE KIM/TC MEDIA

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VANILLA CAKE

PREP TIME **30 MINUTES** | BAKE TIME **30 TO 40 MINUTES** | MAKES **3 CAKES**

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 3 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 cup unsalted butter
- 1½ cups granulated sugar
- 4 tsp pure vanilla extract
- 6 eggs
- ⅔ cup 2% milk

Preheat the oven to 350°F. In a medium bowl, combine the flour, baking powder and salt; set aside.

Cream the butter, sugar and vanilla together in a large bowl with an electric mixer until light and fluffy. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. With the mixer running, add the flour mixture, alternating with the milk, until thoroughly combined. Divide the batter between three 8" round greased and floured cake pans.

Bake for 30 to 40 minutes, rotating the pans after 15 minutes of cooking time. Remove the pans from the oven and cool completely.

ITALIAN MERINGUE BUTTERCREAM

PREP & COOK TIME **30 MINUTES** | MAKES ABOUT **6 CUPS**

- 2¼ cups granulated sugar
- ½ cup water
- 10 egg whites
- 3 cups unsalted butter at room temperature, cut into chunks
- 2 tsp pure vanilla extract

In a saucepan set over medium heat, boil the sugar and water together until the mixture reaches 240°F on a candy thermometer. When the sugar water reaches 230°F, start whipping the egg whites on high speed with an electric mixer.

When the sugar water reaches 240°F, remove the pan from the heat. With the mixer running, slowly pour the sugar water into the egg whites. Continue whipping until the mixing bowl is cool to the touch, approximately 10 to 15 minutes.

With the mixer still running, add the butter in batches until combined. Add the vanilla until well blended. **NOTE:** This is the stage to add food colouring or any desired flavouring, such as melted chocolate, strong coffee, fruit purée or a liqueur. Store the buttercream in an airtight container in your fridge or freezer. The buttercream will keep for one week in the fridge and up to two months in the freezer. Bring the icing to room temperature before using.

SEMI-SWEET CHOCOLATE GANACHE

PREP & COOK TIME **10 MINUTES** | MAKES ABOUT **1 CUP**

- 3½ oz chopped semi-sweet baking chocolate (3½ squares)
- ½ cup whipping cream

Place the chocolate in a heatproof bowl. In a heavy-bottomed saucepan, heat the whipping cream until the edges bubble. Pour the cream over the chocolate and cover. Let stand for 10 minutes.

Stir the cream into the chocolate with a wooden spoon until smooth. Let the ganache stand at room temperature for 4 to 6 hours before using.

CARAMEL SAUCE

PREP & COOK TIME **30 MINUTES** | MAKES ABOUT **1 CUP**

- 1 cup granulated sugar
- ¼ cup water
- ½ cup whipping cream
- ¼ cup unsalted butter, cubed

Boil the sugar and water in a small saucepan over medium-high heat. Do not stir. Brush down the sides of the pan occasionally with a wet pastry brush to stop any crystals from forming. When the mixture begins to turn an amber colour, stir lightly to disperse; continue to cook. Once all the sugar is deep amber in colour, remove the pan from the heat and gently pour in the cream, being careful not to let the mixture bubble over.

Strain the hot sauce into a medium bowl and add the butter. Let the sauce sit until the butter is completely melted. Stir until well combined and continue to cool until the sauce reaches room temperature. To make a caramel buttercream icing, stir ¼ cup of the caramel sauce into 2 cups of the buttercream.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY > EASY INTERMEDIATE ADVANCED

KRAFT PHILADELPHIA

Spread a little holiday sweetness.

Salted Caramel Chocolate Cheesecake

Makes: 16 servings, 1 piece each

3 pkg. (250 g each) **Philadelphia** Brick Cream Cheese, softened
1-1/4 cups *Oreo* crumbs
1/4 cup butter, melted
3/4 cup sugar
3 eggs
4 squares *Baker's* Semi Sweet Chocolate, melted
3/4 cup caramel sauce
1/2 tsp coarse sea salt

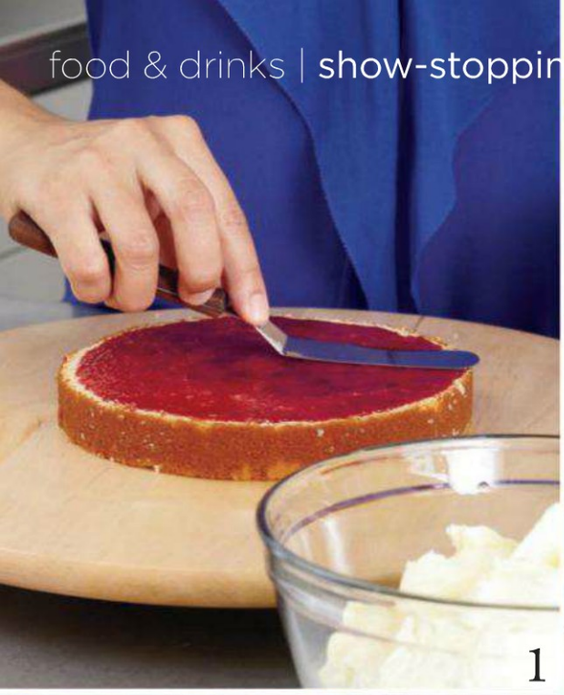
PREHEAT oven to 350°F. Mix crumbs and butter. Press firmly onto bottom of a 9-inch springform pan.

BEAT Philadelphia Cream Cheese and sugar in a large bowl until blended. Add eggs, 1 at a time, mixing on low speed just until blended. Stir in chocolate; pour over crust.

BAKE 40 min. or until centre is almost set. Run knife around rim of pan to loosen cake; cool completely before removing rim. Refrigerate 4 hours. Spread caramel sauce over top just before serving and sprinkle with sea salt.

cookingwithphilly.ca

KRAFT PHILADELPHIA ORIGINAL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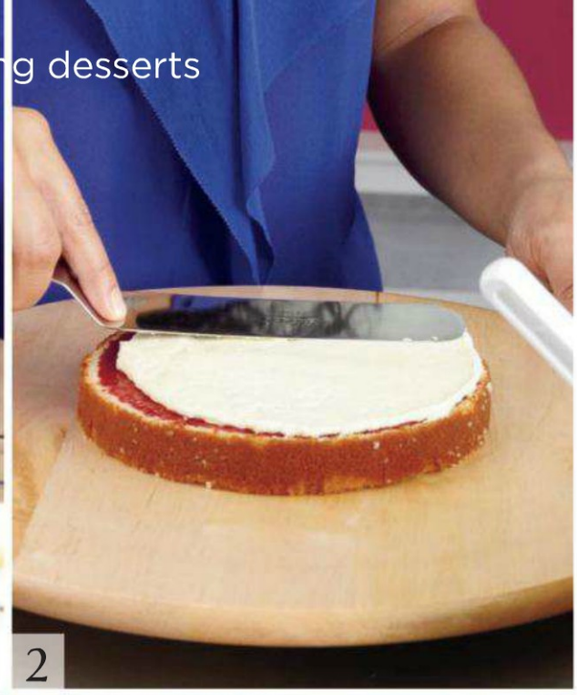
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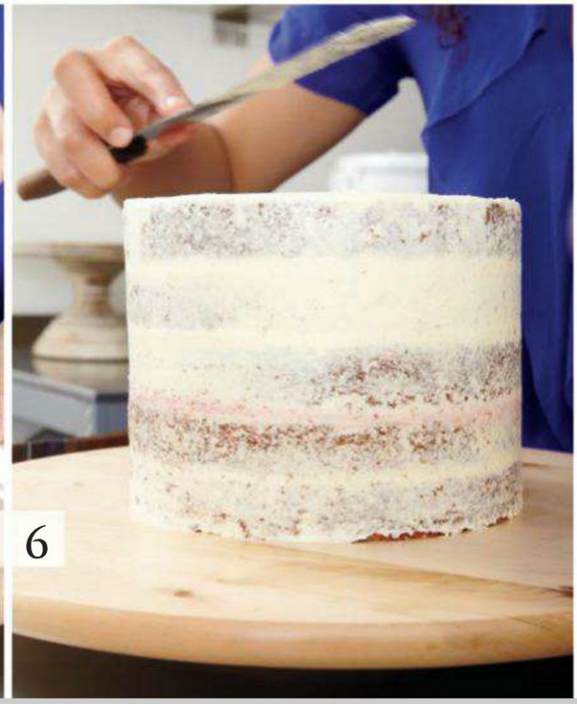
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How to create our show-stopping layered pine cone cake

You will need:

- 1 recipe Vanilla Cake
- filling (such as seedless raspberry jam)
- 1 recipe Italian Meringue Buttercream
- 2½ lbs of purchased fondant to cover cake (available at crafts or bulk-food stores)
- Wilton gel colour in Teal
- rolling pin
- purchased chocolate fondant (available at crafts or bulk-food stores)
- petal-shaped cookie cutter
- small circle cutter (such as piping tip #11)
- small paintbrush
- pine cones for decoration

REMOVE THE COOLED VANILLA CAKES from the pans by running a knife or spatula around the inside edges of the cake pans and turning them out onto a large work surface or Lazy Susan (for easier icing). Use a serrated knife to level the cakes if necessary; slice each cake in half horizontally so you have six equal cake pieces in total.

WORKING WITH THE FIRST CAKE PIECE, spread a layer of filling on top (Yolanda used a seedless raspberry jam for this cake), then spread a layer of buttercream over the filling. Place a second cake piece on top and continue layering the filling, buttercream and cake pieces until you have a stacked six-layer cake.

GIVE THE EDGE A CRUMB COAT once you reach the third piece by spreading a very thin layer of buttercream around the sides and on the top that will "glue" any crumbs to the cake. This will help give the fondant a smooth finish later. Apply another crumb coat when the cake is completely stacked. Chill the cake for 30 minutes.

ROLL THE PURCHASED FONDANT into a ball. Dot the teal gel colour onto the fondant and then knead the colour into the fondant using your hands (using food-safe gloves is recommended to keep the dye from staining your hands).

ROLL OUT THE FONDANT on a bed of icing sugar (as you would pie dough) to make a circle that's approximately 16" in diameter. Pick up the fondant by rolling it around your rolling pin and carefully drape it over the cake. Working gently with your hands or a fondant smoother, smooth the fondant over the cake. Cut off the excess fondant around the base to use for the petals.

FORM THE EXCESS FONDANT INTO A BALL and add a bit more of the teal dye to it to make the darker blue fondant. Split the ball in half and dye one piece even darker.

ROLL OUT THE TWO SHADES of blue fondant and the chocolate fondant onto your work surface. Cut enough petals out of the blue shades to circle the cake two or three times each. Use the end of the piping tip #11 to cut out the chocolate fondant dots.

GLUE THE PETALS around the bottom of the cake using a bit of water and a paintbrush. The water will dissolve some of the sugar in the fondant and make it sticky. Be careful not to overdo it.

ADD THE POLKA DOTS above the petal design in the same fashion.

PLACE THE PINE CONES on top for a final touch and chill the cake for 1 hour, or until ready to serve.

TIP Yolanda always colours her fondant bit by bit, using a toothpick or the tip of a knife to add the colour slowly. You can always add more but you can't remove it.

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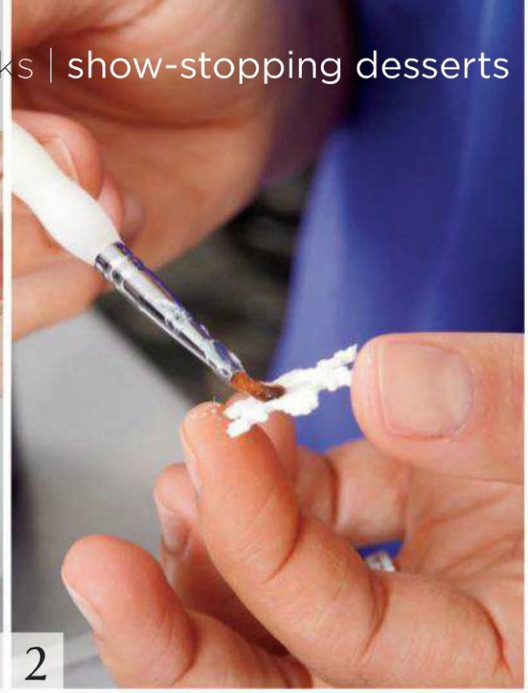

2

How to create our show-stopping layered vintage snowflake cake

You will need:

- 1 recipe Vanilla Cake
- 1 recipe Semi-Sweet Chocolate Ganache
- 1 recipe Italian Meringue Buttercream flavoured with caramel sauce
- 2½ lbs of purchased fondant to cover cake (available at crafts or bulk-food stores)
- Wilton gel colour in Ivory and Rose
- rolling pin
- edible blue and pink pearls and silver dragees
- small paintbrush
- decorative snowflakes
- vintage ornaments and ribbon for decoration

PREPARE THE VANILLA CAKES using the same method as the pine cone cake, substituting ganache for the raspberry jam and caramel buttercream for the plain buttercream. Colour the fondant with the ivory gel colour and drape the fondant over the cake as before, cutting away the excess.

COLOUR THE EXCESS FONDANT with the rose gel colour and roll it out with your hands into a long thin rope; cut the rope into 8 equal pieces. Draw a swag pattern onto the cake with a wet paintbrush. You can use a glass or something round, if needed, to help you outline the design.

GENTLY PICK UP THE FONDANT STRINGS and glue them to the cake, following the swag.

ADD THE BLUE PEARLS along the top at the joints, holding them in place with a touch of icing. Add the pink pearls and the snowflakes the same way.

THE CAKE SHOULD START TO "SWEAT" once it has been out for a while. At this point, sprinkle the silver dragees onto the sides.

TIE SOME RIBBON to the tops of your ornaments and place on the cake; chill the cake for 1 hour, or until ready to serve.

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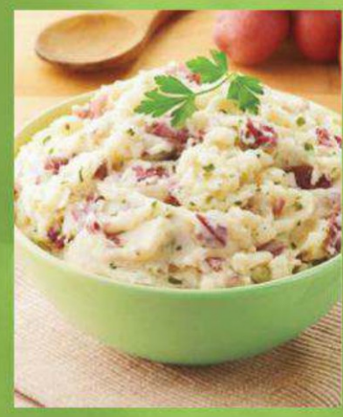

GARLIC & PARSLEY MASHED POTATOES

The **Becel® Buttery Taste Margarine** in this mashed potato recipe has 80% less saturated fat than butter and a delicious buttery taste you'll love. So go ahead, cheat on butter. We won't tell.

750 g (1-1/2 lbs) medium red potatoes, unpeeled and cut into chunks

30 mL (2 tbsp) **Becel® Buttery Taste Margarine**

2 cloves garlic, chopped

50 mL (1/4 cup) skim milk

30 mL (2 tbsp) finely chopped parsley

In medium saucepan, add potatoes and cover with water. Bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce heat to low and simmer 20 minutes or until potatoes are very tender; drain.

In same saucepan, melt **Becel® Buttery Taste Margarine** over medium heat and cook garlic, stirring, 1 minute or until fragrant.

Return potatoes to saucepan; mash. Stir in remaining ingredients.

4 servings
Prep Time: 15 minutes
Cook Time: 25 minutes

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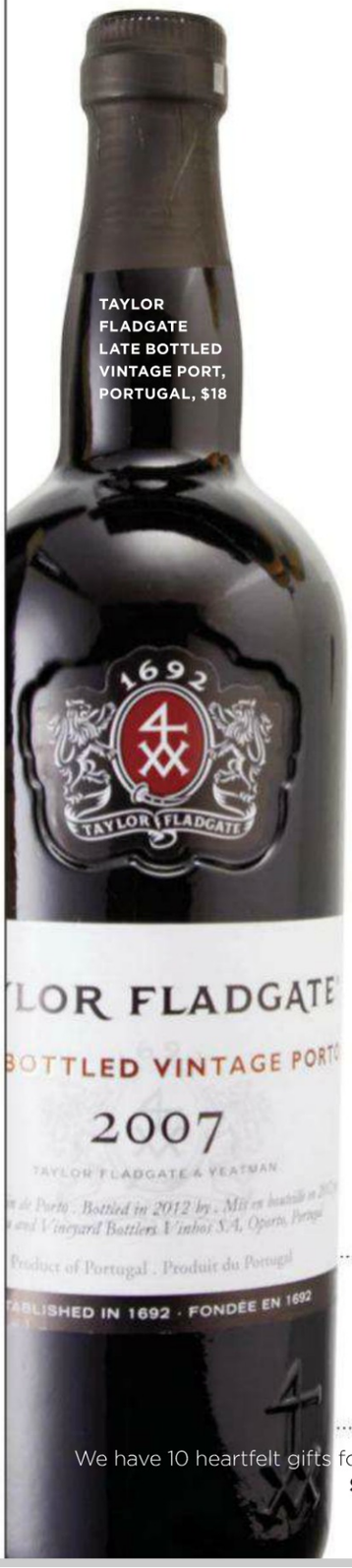
TOASTED HEAD CHARDONNAY, CALIFORNIA, $18



TAYLOR FLADGATE LATE BOTTLED VINTAGE PORT, PORTUGAL, $18

Giving wine as a gift may seem cliché, but we beg to differ. It's the thought that counts: Consider the recipient's personality, lifestyle, travel interests and food preferences when selecting the perfect bottle. These no-fail ideas will get you started.

FOR YOUR SPECIAL SOMEONE

When giving wine to your significant other, take the time to think about what story you want your gift to tell. Maybe it's a vintage from the year you met, a grape from your favourite travel destination or a winery that's meaningful to both of you. A bottle of champagne, Merlot or Chardonnay always makes for a romantic evening enjoyed by an open fire.

ANGELA'S PICKS Taittinger Brut Réserve Champagne, $54; Toasted Head Chardonnay, $18.

FOR YOUR IN-LAWS

If you're thinking about what to buy your in-laws, you can't go wrong with a bottle of wine. Tie in their interests with a bottle from a celebrity winery (Wayne Gretzky for the hockey-crazed father-in-law; Mike Weir for your brother-in-law who loves to golf; Francis Ford Coppola for a movie-obsessed mom). If all else fails, try an Italian wine or an icewine, which makes a generous statement and a memorable gift.

ANGELA'S PICKS Inniskillin Vidal Icewine, $50; Masi Costasera Amarone Classico, $40.

FOR YOUR BOSS

Wine is a great gift for your boss because it can be personal – but not too personal. Find out what your boss likes to drink: A little thought goes a long way (you just never know when a promotion might pop up). A Port, Sauterne, Chardonnay or full-bodied red always makes a good impression.

ANGELA'S PICKS
Calvet Reserve Red, $15; Taylor Fladgate Late Bottled Vintage Port, $18.

FOR YOUR HOST

Know someone who loves to entertain? Choose a unique and exciting varietal that will please a crowd and taste great. Grüner Veltliner, Viognier and Torrontés pair well with appetizers and green salads. Carmenère, Beaujolais, Baco Noir, Amarone or Zinfandel are delicious for dinner parties.

ANGELA'S PICKS Ken Forrester Petit Chenin Blanc, $13; Louis Jadot Combe Aux Jacques Beaujolais-Villages, $35.

Wine expert **Angela Aiello** is the founder of the iYellow Wine Club (iyellowwineclub.com), which hosts regular events, classes and tours where members can build wine confidence and appreciation through discovery.

We have 10 heartfelt gifts for the holiday hostess. Check them out at **STYLEATHOME.COM/HOLIDAYHOSTESS.**

PHOTOGRAPHY, JOE KIM/TC MEDIA (WINE), RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (PORTRAIT)

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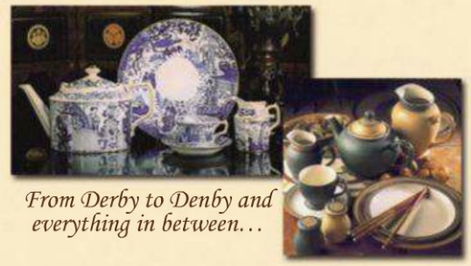

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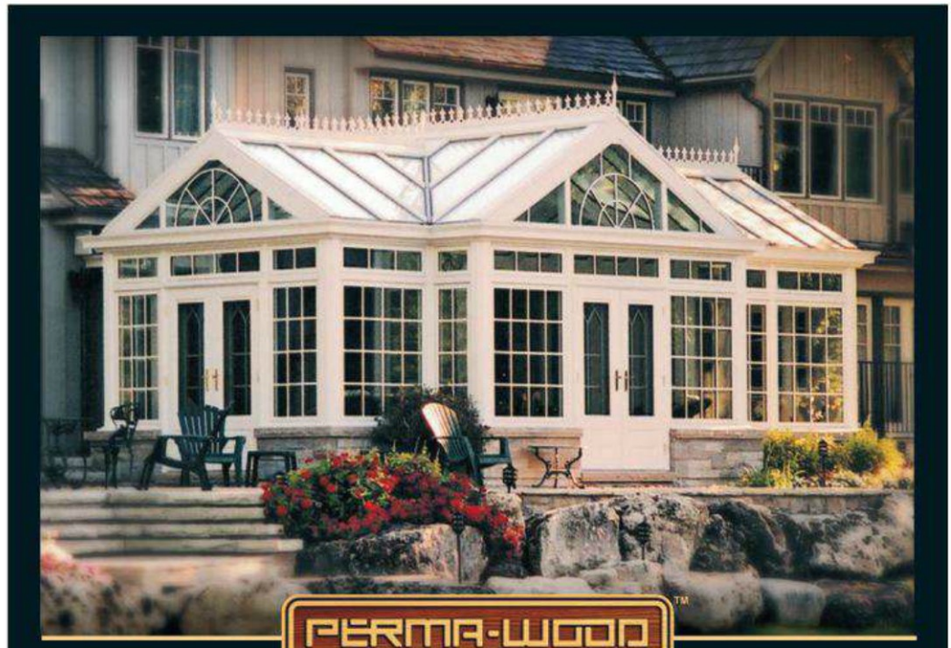

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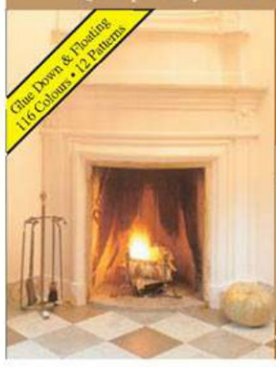

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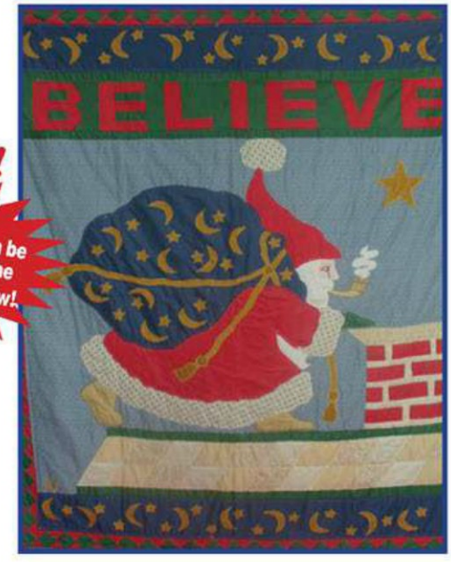

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handmade in Canada: our favourite artisan gift ideas

give the gift **FROM PAGE 119**

1. WHO Eva of Atelier Evajuliet
WHERE Montreal
WHAT Art prints of original illustrations.
WEBSITE evajuliet.etsy.com.

2. WHO Céline Fafard
WHERE Montreal
WHAT Pretty lace-patterned ceramics.
WEBSITE celinefafard.com.

3. WHO Jenna Fenwick of Jenna Rose
WHERE Lanark Highlands, Ont.
WHAT Screen-printed organic cotton textiles.
WEBSITE jennarosehandmade.etsy.com.

4. WHO Irene Suchocki of Eye Poetry Photography
WHERE Montreal
WHAT Ethereal photographs of iconic places, such as Paris, New York City and Venice.
WEBSITE eyepoetryphotography.etsy.com.

5. WHO Anne Schneider of Good Wishes Quilts
WHERE Kelowna, B.C.
WHAT Adorable felt baby booties and Dr. Seuss-style Christmas stockings.
WEBSITE goodwishesquilts.etsy.com.

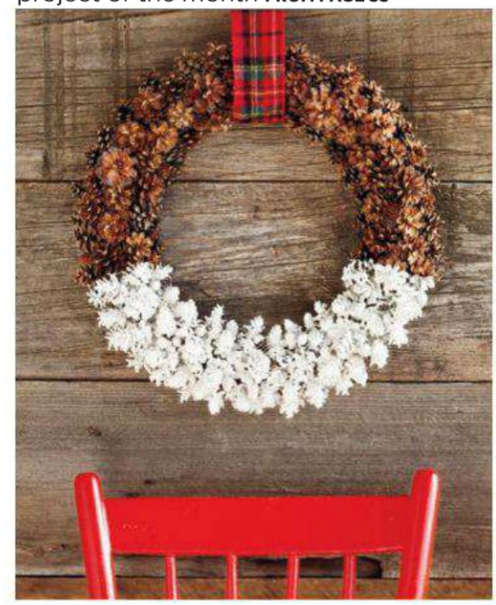
6. WHO Jana Bookholt of Swaine Street Woodworking
WHERE Halifax
WHAT Handcrafted wooden cutting boards.
WEBSITE swainestreetwoodworking.etsy.com.

7. WHO Marianne Chénard
WHERE Montreal
WHAT Porcelain maple syrup bottles inspired by the Canadian landscape.
WEBSITE marianne-chenard.com.

See these Canadian artisans and more at the One of a Kind Show, oneofakindshow.com.

style news

project of the month **FROM PAGE 33**



MATERIALS

- brown spray paint
- 16" Styrofoam wreath
- wire
- 50 large-sized pine cones
- 100 medium-sized pine cones
- 30 mini pine cones
- latex paint
- rod
- paint tray
- glue gun
- ribbon

Style at Home managing editor and resident crafter Catherine Therrien shows you how to make this rustic pine cone wreath.

1 Spray paint the Styrofoam wreath and let fully dry.
2 Using a piece of wire secured to the base of the pine cone, dip directly into the paint can. Once completely covered, attach the other end of the wire to a rod and let drip dry into a paint tray. Repeat this process with a selection of different-sized pine cones. Let fully dry. (Note: When pine cones get wet, they have a tendency to close up, so you may need more than you think.)
3 Using a glue gun, adhere the unpainted large- and medium-sized pine cones to three-quarters of the wreath, holding each in place until the glue hardens. Use the small pine cones to fill in any gaps.
4 Finish with the painted pine cones using the same method described above.
5 Hang in a spot indoors with a pretty ribbon.

PHOTOGRAPHY, JOE KIM/TC MEDIA (PROJECT). RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (PORTRAIT)

perfect pairings

let them eat cake **FROM PAGE 154**

Cave Spring Indian Summer Select Late Harvest Riesling, Ontario, $25

Château Guiraud Sauternes, France, $75

Folie à Deux Ménage à Trois Red Wine, California, $18

Wine expert Angela Aiello selects three matches for our "Let Them Eat Cake" menu (page 154).

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***through designers**

next | december issue

celebrate in
STYLE

SIX PARTY-READY HOMES; fun and easy hostess gift ideas; plus, setting up an in-home bar.

AND MUCH MORE! An after-dinner cheese course; how to host a wine-tasting party; a Dorothy Draper Christmas.

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last LOOK

Every issue, we pick our favourite piece from one of the featured interiors. This month, we chose a pretty array of vintage flatware from Stephanie Vogler's Vancouver home (see "Glittering Prize," page 138).

the inspiration

Homeowner Stephanie Vogler's gorgeous style combines simplicity with sumptuousness, which is evidenced here in her collection of mix-and-match vintage cutlery set in an everyday glass vase.

Tivoli **FLATWARE,** $65 per 5-piece place setting, Pottery Barn, potterybarn.com.

WHY WE LOVE IT

The holidays are a time when we bring out our best wares and use them to treat family and friends, whether it's for a casual brunch or a fancy cocktail party. We particularly love this flatware for its slightly pitted silver-finished handles – giving it a highly sought-after vintage patina – contrasted with the sheen of its stainless steel heads.

WHY IT WORKS

A high-quality set of flatware will last you a lifetime, especially if you reserve it only for special occasions. With this Tivoli flatware, the thick brass handles offer a nice weight, while the natural pitting on the silver finish gives it a timeless lustre that can be easily combined with other sets (new and old) for a fun, eclectic look.

WHERE TO USE IT

For a formal sit-down dinner, you may opt for a traditional place setting arrangement. But if you're hosting a more relaxed buffet-style meal or a standing-room-only type of bash, present cutlery by category or mixed together in vases or pots.

PRODUCER, CATHERINE THERRIEN; PHOTOGRAPHY, JOE KIM/TC MEDIA, JANIS NICOLAY (INTERIOR)

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